

# Pablo Castilla (ES, 1980)

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Pablo Castilla Heredia lives and works between Granada (Spain) and Norway. His work is based on the direct exploration of reality and encoded in a documentary-based language through various disciplines such as cinema, performing arts and photography. The use of a documentary style becomes in itself a strategy that reveals fissures in perception and challenges the boundaries between fiction and reality.

After graduating in Fine Arts, he lived in Brussels from 2001 to 2014, where he earned a Master's Degree in Documentary Filmmaking and, together with Hedvig Biong and Niko Hafkenscheid, founded "Kevin or Harry", a performing arts collective that creates theatre pieces where real people take the stage. Since 2018, he collaborates regularly with Pablo López on projects revolving around photography and territory ("Pangnirtung").

## ABOUT THE WORK

### 'untitled (from the series "Syden: a moment of being")' (2018)

40x50 cm inkjet print (based on a 6x7cm colour negative)

Photoprint on high quality hahnemülle fine art paper 180 mg + birch frame

This image is part of the installation "*Syden: A moment of Being*", made in collaboration with Niko Hafkenscheid and Hedvig Biong and co-produced by workingspacebrussels. For the exhibition '404 - Page Not Found' it will be presented on itself for the very first time.

The general idea behind the photo and the larger installation is to explore the awe and beauty of nature in relation to human recreation: We travel the globe looking to feel the mystery of unknown places but at the same time expecting all contemporary luxuries. We are at a point where the Utopia of holiday transforms into a perversity. This is represented by a series of photographs, real testimonies by tourists and field recordings from tourist destinations. The images are projected on the pages of different books where testimonies, quotes and opinions of tourists can be read. The spectator is invited into a space to read, to watch and to listen. The metaphor that is being used to perform this act of self-reflecting research are dinosaurs. Children are often fascinated by them. Often they seem larger than life - impossible to die. However - they did die out.

Connecting died out dino's with empty cities ran over by sand and apartment buildings overgrown with weeds we use history to look into a possible future. Narration becomes prediction, and the use of general data becomes a form of projection.

The title is taken from the existing idea of the Scandinavian word Syden ('South' in all Scandinavian languages), naming a created holiday-land with sun and beaches, a mental and physical space where happiness and relaxation can be found. Tourism has the potential to be a mental space for freedom, where humans can explore themselves in a different environment, away from the constraints of daily- life. The lushness of desire collides with the banality of an artificially created paradise. We can chill-out and rest, enjoy our lovely Margheritas while total collapse might already be happening in the reality of the world outside the resort.