

TRANVÅR EXHIBITION



Text: Jessica Lee Hjort

This year's exhibition presents new watercolors and studies of cranes with focus on their behaviour and body language. The exhibition also includes original watercolors from a series of postcards of local plant- and animal species from "Vattenriket," motifs from Skåne and Sjælland, and finally two stunning watercolours of West Papua birds of paradise.

Crane behaviour

In 2013, Carl Christian and Jessica started a collaboration around crane behaviour and crane body language of the common crane (*Grus grus*). It is a fascinating subject. For the season they've produced a field guide folder to some of the most common displays seen during the cranes' stop-over in Pulken. In the exhibition, some of the sketches and watercolors that Carl Christian has produced during the project, are presented.



Studies of crane behaviour and bodylanguage, 2013.

"Vattenriket"

In Kristianstads Vattenrike many of the Scandinavian biomes (confirm term!) meet within a limited area. Many of the boreal species like elk (*Alces alces*), pygmy owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*) and spruce (*Picea abies*) can be experienced together with more southern species like golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*), Copris lunaris and sand pink (*Dianthus arenarius L.*). Part of the rich biodiversity of the area is reflected in the postcard series from the Kristianstad Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve "Vattenriket - 8 olika motiv målade av Carl Christian Tofte". The original water colours from the series are presented in the exhibition.



Fen ragwort with Cynthia cardui, 2010.

Skåne & Sjælland

In Carl Christian's conception, Skåneland is something real. This historical area is part of his identity. He never misses an opportunity to visit places around, both to watch birds and to get to know the landscape. The exhibition includes several motifs from the region, among others illustrations for a future book "Ørneturen" (also motifs from Skagen) and some fantastic landscapes of Nivå, which is part of the interpretation around Nivå Bugt Strandenge.



Hooded crow, white-tailed eagle and greylag goose, Jyllinge Holme at Roskilde Fjord, Jan. 2013.

Birds of Paradise

During the years, Carl Christian's fascination for birds has taken him to many places around the world; North- and South America, Greenland, Asia, Australasia and of course Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. During the last 6 years he's been on two major trips, Bolivia and West Papua. The exhibition includes two absolutely stunning watercolours portraying two West Papua birds of paradise; Arfak astrapia and Black sickle-bill.



Black sickle-bill and Arfak astrapia, 2008.