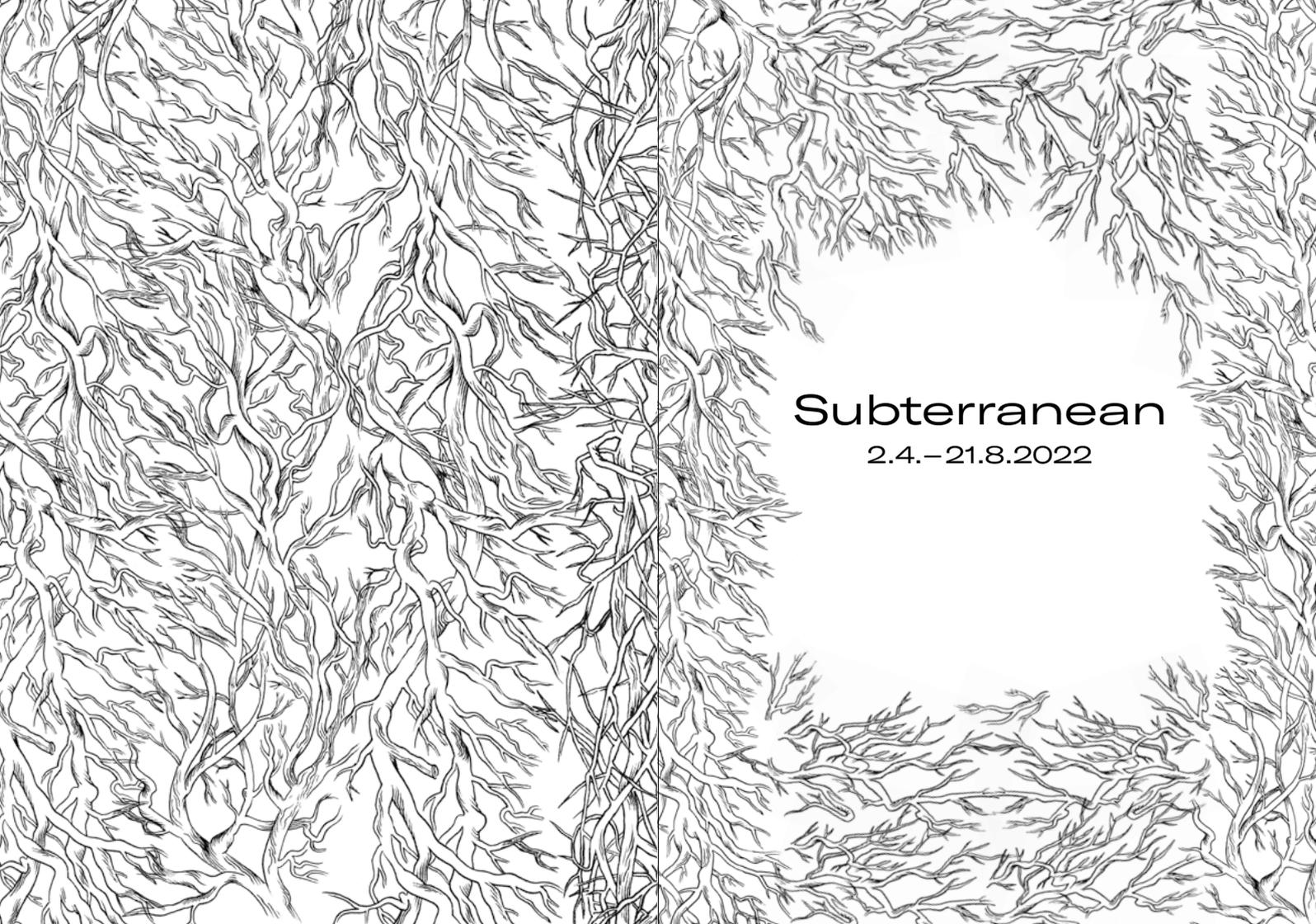


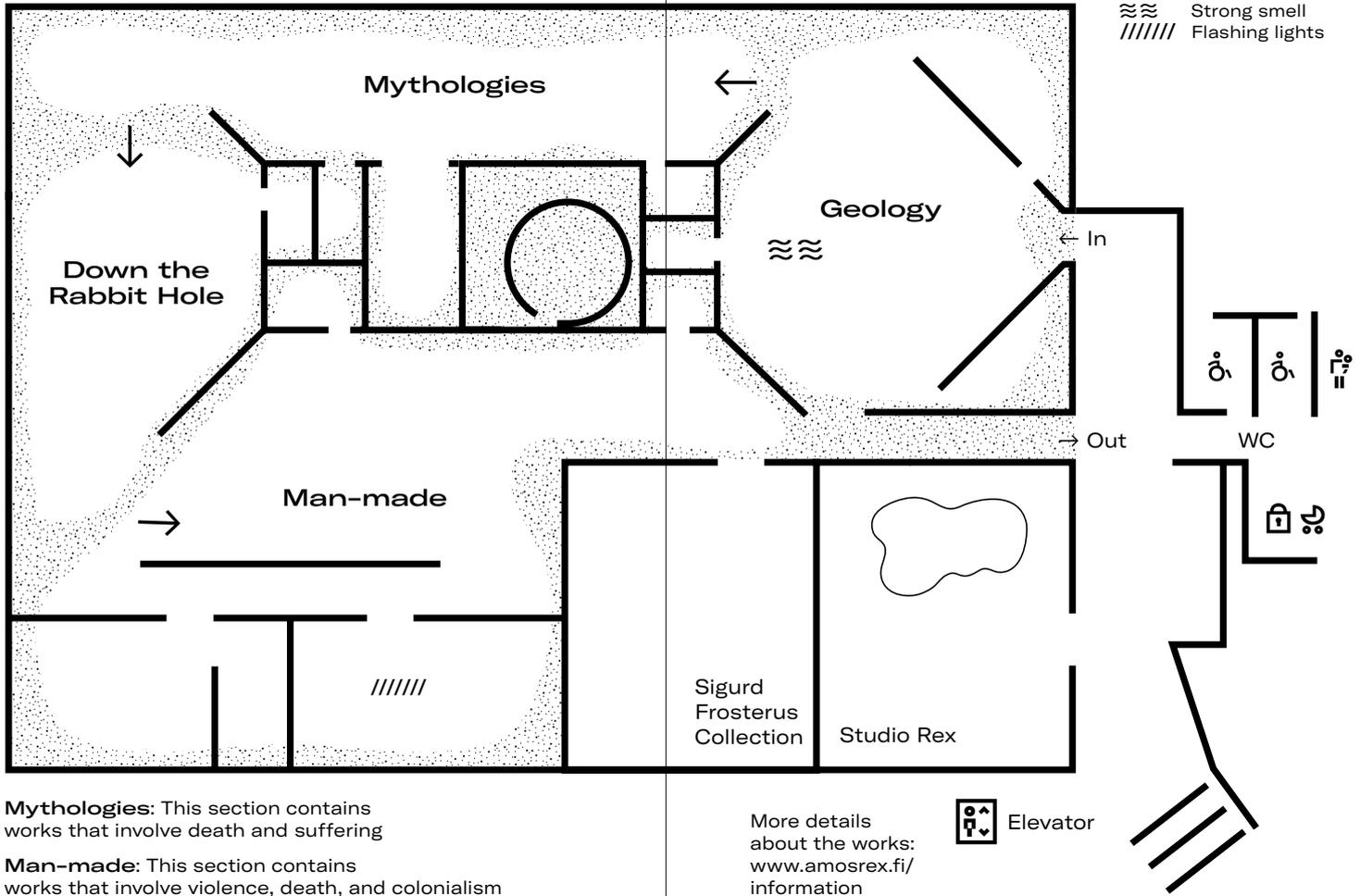
Subterranean EN





Subterranean

2.4.–21.8.2022



Mythologies: This section contains works that involve death and suffering

Man-made: This section contains works that involve violence, death, and colonialism

More details about the works:
www.amosrex.fi/
 information

 Elevator

In this booklet

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At the exhibition

Subterranean is divided into four themes: *Geology*, *Mythologies*, *Down the Rabbit Hole* and *Man-made*.

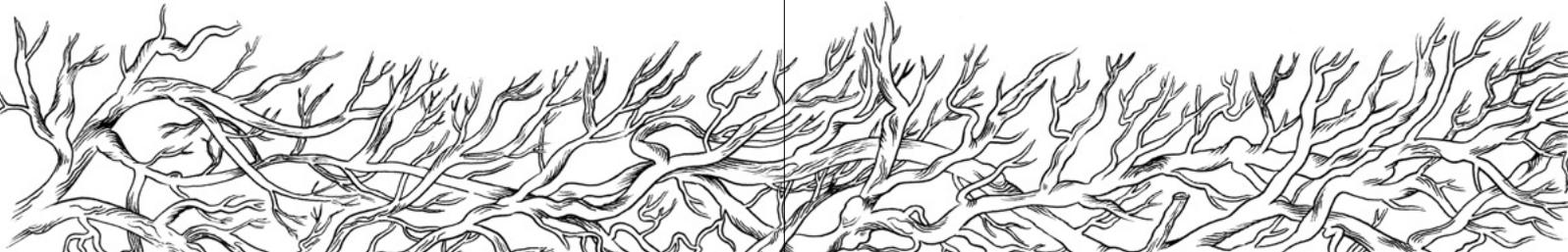
There are texts on the walls of the exhibition space telling you about each section and letting you know when a new theme begins. You can also read more about the themes in this booklet.

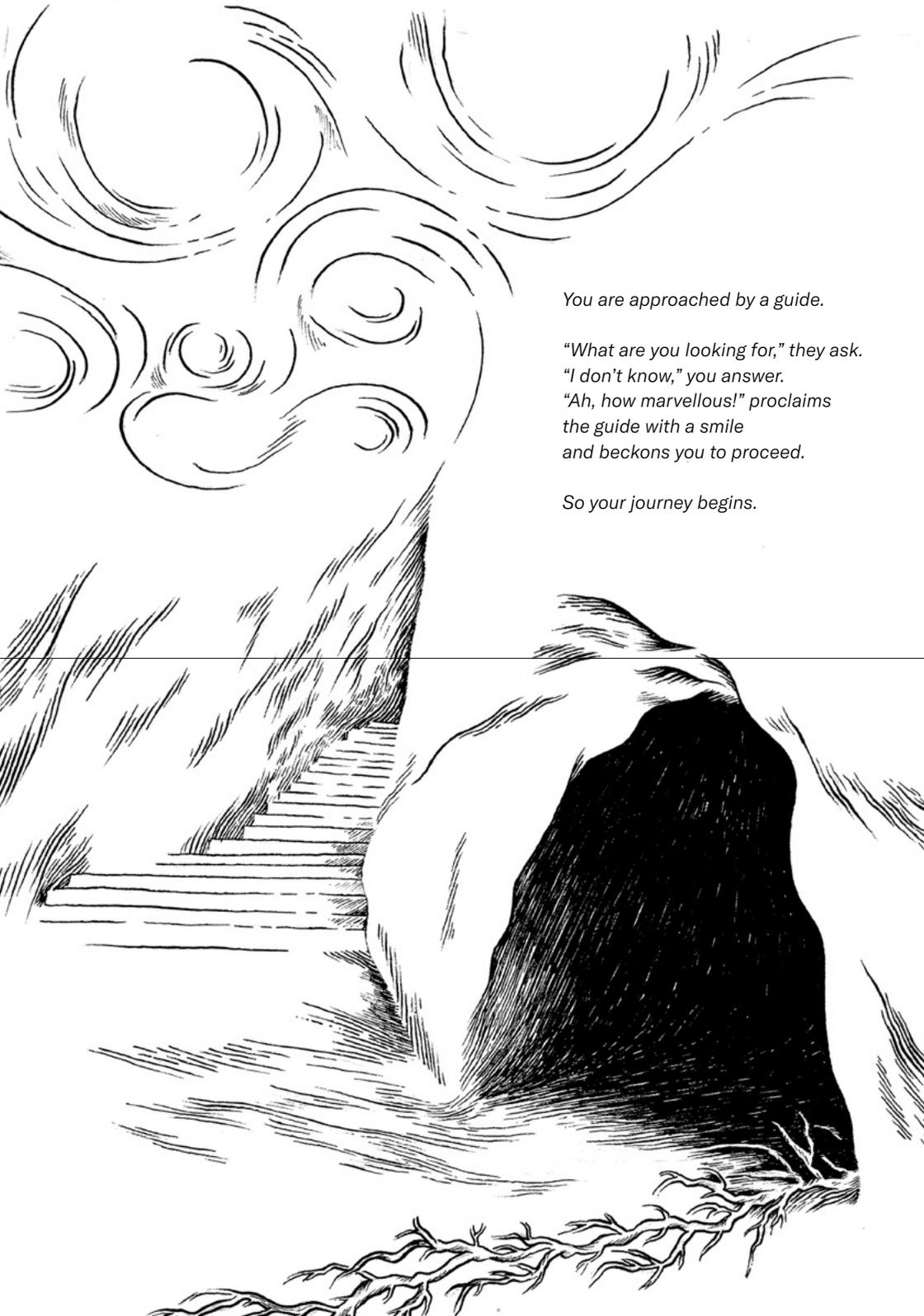
Near each work, you will find a label listing the artist's name and year of birth (and death if applicable).

Many works are also accompanied by a more extensive introductory text to help you delve into the work. Please don't touch the artworks, unless otherwise instructed.

Get to know our guides!

Our discussion guides are on hand in the exhibition premises. Feel free to ask them about the works or about art in general. They are there for you! You can recognise them by their lavender-coloured jackets.





You are approached by a guide.

"What are you looking for," they ask.

"I don't know," you answer.

*"Ah, how marvellous!" proclaims
the guide with a smile
and beckons you to proceed.*

So your journey begins.

Subterranean

2.4.–21.8.2022

The underground world has fascinated humans throughout the ages. This interest has been strongly visible in art – and remains so.

In this exhibition, you can travel underground through stories told with paintings, sculptures, photographs, videos, and other works. The exhibition showcases more than 60 international artists, whose works are somehow united by a subterranean theme. Some are artists of the past who have depicted ancient myths or great supernatural experiences in their works. Others are contemporary artists whose works examine everything from catacombs to how our treatment of the land is shaping our common future. The exhibition includes a large number of works, yet much of this huge topic remains untouched.

Feel free to explore the exhibition at your own pace. Perhaps you'd like to get lost in the subterranean network, encounter something new and let your thoughts flow beyond the boundaries of the museum. During your visit, you may be met by busy little critters, menacing monsters, hidden graves and hypnotically beautiful diamonds. If you stop to listen, even stones may tell you about their lives.

We also invite you to leave your mark at the Studio Rex art workshop space, where exhibition visitors can create their own shared story, as cave painters once did.

Welcome to *Subterranean!*





*Entering the cave, you notice
it is bigger than you thought.*

*It contains all
the information
about everything
in the world.
How it was, why,
and what it will become.*

*The walls
whisper
their secrets
to you, as you
make your way
further in...*

*Can you
hear them?*

It all began in a cave

Caves are ancient naturally occurring spaces used by animals and humans for shelter. Their walls have been covered with paintings and they have been portrayed by artists. Why are we so fascinated by caves and what are they, really? Big holes within rock, or something much more?

In Europe, caves and other magnificent natural phenomena made a great impression on artists, especially during the Romantic era of the 18th and 19th centuries. The artists were interested in everything grand and frightening, like deep gorges, spectacular mountains, and profound emotions. At the same time, this was an era of geographical discovery and exploration – as well as colonialism. Before the emergence of cameras, artists played a key role in depicting these discoveries and new knowledge, so they joined explorers on their voyages.

The science of studying the earth and the earth's crust, including caves, is called geology. Geology uses rocks and minerals to study the history of the earth, what it was made of and how. By exploring the earth, we can find out what it was like before and why our environment is how it is now. A small stone may seem simple, but it can contain ancient information about our world, the layers of the earth, or even another planet.

*This place is filled with holes, so watch your step!
You look down into one of the cavities and see
a woman engulfed in flames.
She screams for your help.*



*But if you
reach out,
will you
risk being
dragged
down
yourself?*

Spirits below us



In religious narratives and myths, the subterranean world is the realm of fantastic creatures and doomed people. Several works in the exhibition feature a creature with a man's body and a bull's head. He is the Minotaur, known from ancient Greek mythology. The Minotaur is portrayed as a monster trapped in a subterranean labyrinth that devours young people and is marked to die for everyone's safety. Theseus, the king's son, is sent to accomplish this terrible task. He succeeds in his mission and cunningly escapes from the labyrinth.

But not all subterranean stories end in a successful escape. Dante Alighieri, a writer who lived more than 700 years ago (1265–1321), described horrors that take place underground in *Divine Comedy* (c. 1300). Dante's description of inferno and the sinners condemned to spend eternity there is considered a landmark of world literature. The concept of sin in the story is related to the Christian notion that people who have committed evil in their lives are sentenced to horrifying conditions in an underground hell. It is however noteworthy that, for example, women and those belonging to sexual minorities were also readily considered to be sinful. In Dante's book, the worst sinners are condemned to the furthest depths of the earth, closest to the fallen angel Lucifer, who rules hell.

Nevertheless, Lucifer has not had an entirely bad reputation throughout history; to some he has even served as an ally of sorts. Folk tales feature other such contradictory characters, who act as helpers to some while tormenting others.

In myths, as in reality, it is rare that anyone is entirely good or evil. What thoughts does this evoke in you?



*You stumble upon
a tree stump. It looks
at you intently.*

*Does it want
something, or is it
simply curious?*

*You look around.
There are eyes everywhere!*

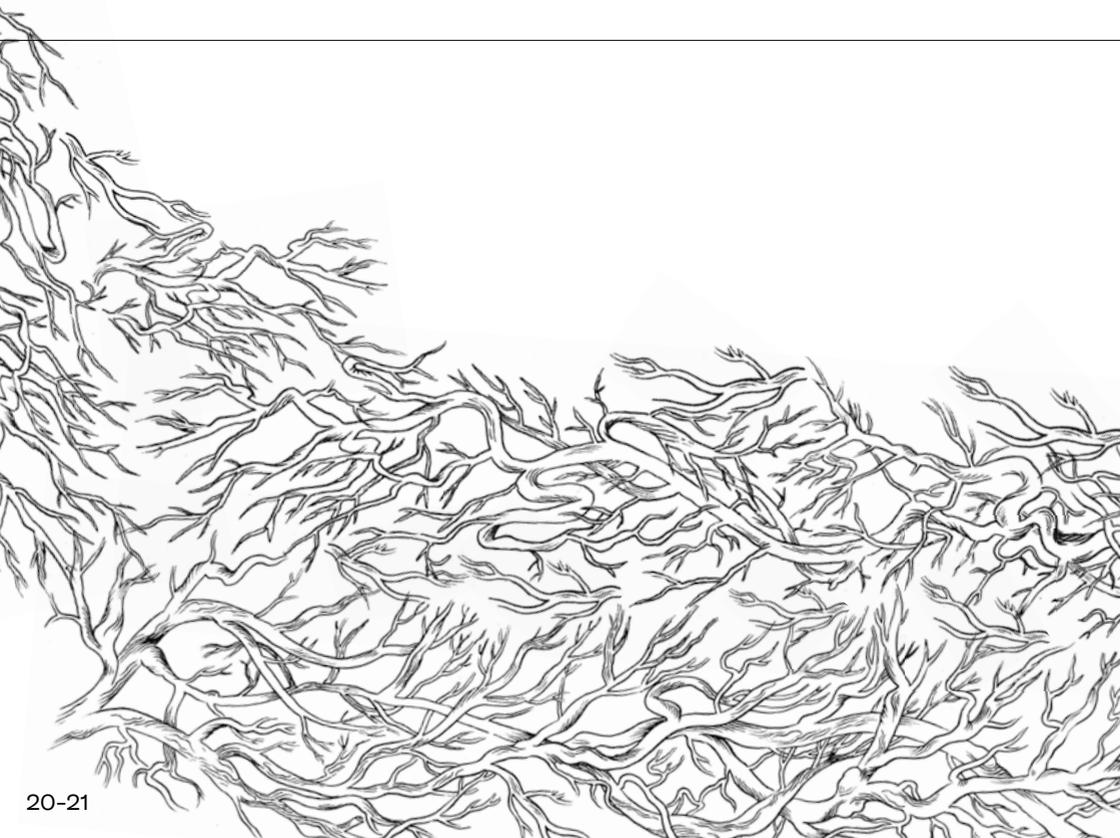
*You have entered
a place where
everything and
anything is alive,
and nothing
is impossible.
What will you do?*

When Alice fell down the rabbit hole

Alice is just an ordinary child from an ordinary home in an ordinary world. One day she sees a nervous white rabbit. Curiously following its paw prints, she ends up in a fantastic underground world. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, written in 1865 by Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) has been the subject of many artistic interpretations, from illustrations to films, plays and songs.

Underground fairytales and stories, both new and old, can be found all over the world. Do you have a favourite book, a cartoon, or a movie that travels into the earth? Or can you think of a character from the subterranean world?

The idea that the earth is hollow inside was rejected by science long ago. But if you open your imagination, anything might be down there! Extinct dinosaurs, such as in *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (1864) by Jules Verne (1828-1905). Or cakes that, when eaten, shrink you down to miniature size, as Alice discovered in *Wonderland*.





To move on, you need a tool.

You may imagine this tool as any shape and size, but it must cut through the hardest crusts and layers of the earth.

It must destroy whatever is in its way, and only then you see it.

Something sparkling.

The traces we leave

People have dug underground for many different reasons. Sewage from our cities travels there in pipes, we move quickly from one place to another through metro tunnels, and we even visit exhibitions in an underground museum.

Humans have long been using the earth and materials found there for their own purposes. This pace has sped up as consumption increases uncontrollably. We are digging up metals, oil, diamonds, and other rapidly depleting materials from the earth at an ever-accelerating pace. Is this movement always one-way? Do we return anything into the ground?

The climate catastrophe can be described as a kind of hell on earth, but there are others as well: spiritual, social, personal, and global hells in which some people are forced to live every day.

Through art, we can deal with painful memories or subjects, such as feelings related to climate anxiety. We can create hope for a better future and become inspired to do things to protect our planet and people.



*People have been here before you. They have left marks,
Studying the cave wall, and regarding the thoughts upon it,
you know exactly what to do.*

Your fingertips turn into sharp pieces of chalk, and you start to...



Studio Rex

Caves are often cavities formed by forces of nature, but if you look up and around the museum ceiling, you may find that you've been in a kind of cave all along.

In the Studio Rex art workshop space, you are welcome to pause for a moment, and to reflect on the exhibition. You have been taken on a kind of journey, through many twists and turns and new acquaintances, but how will it continue or end? It's completely up to you.

You can write or draw with other guests – perhaps you want to carry on from someone else's idea or leave the next visitor in the middle of a sentence. You can also take advantage of the following blank page, and dream by yourself.

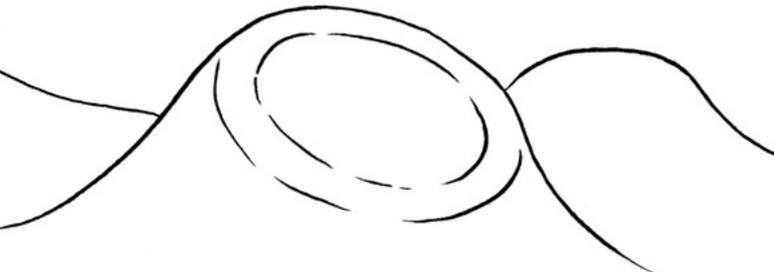
Write or draw here!



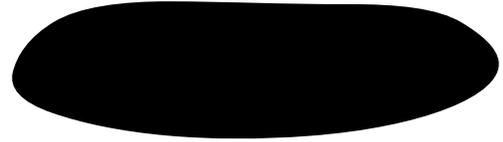
Journey to the centre of Amos Rex

Delve deeper into the subterranean world with a group of friends or work colleagues, led by one of our guides! You can book a guided visit for your group, or buy yourself a single ticket for a themed tour on the museum's website.

Read more and follow our events: amosrex.fi/en



Hmm, whose shadow is this?



Ou

We don't know much about Ou, who was born at Amos Rex, besides that it is round and loves art. The *Subterranean* exhibition makes Ou particularly happy because it includes lots of new discoveries, many of whom come from underground – just like Ou!

Sometimes Ou visits the museum's courtyard, because something new is always appearing there, too. Have you seen it hovering around the domes or the chimney in the square? Ou uses the skylights to get in and out but always eventually returns to the museum. Ou thinks it's nice and safe here in the cave, although art sometimes evokes a wide range of emotions.

Read more about Amos Rex for kids: amosrex.fi/en/ou

The artists

Geology

JOHAN CHRISTIAN DAHL
(1788–1857)

TACITA DEAN
(b. 1965)

A K DOLVEN
(b. 1953)

CECILIA EDEFALK
(b. 1954)

HELENE GARBERG
(b. 1983)

ANE GRAFF
(b. 1974)

HOKUSAI
(1760–1849)

PER KIRKEBY
(1938–2018)

ERNESTO NETO
(b. 1964)

MARIELE NEUDECKER
(b. 1965)

JOÃO PENALVA
(b. 1949)

MARTINUS RØRBYE
(1803–1848)

GEIR HARALD SAMUELSEN
(b. 1969)

AXEL STRASCHNOY
(b. 1978)

JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY
(1734–1797)

Mythologies

ROMA AUSKALNYTE
(b. 1988)

ANTOINE-LOUIS BARYE
(1795–1875)

LOUISE BOURGEOIS
(1911–2010)

TACITA DEAN
(b. 1965)

GUSTAVE DORÉ
(1832–1883)

CHO DUCK-HYUN
(b. 1957)

CECILIA EDEFALK

(b. 1954)

MAGNUS ENCKELL

(1870–1925)

AKSELI GALLEN-KALLELA

(1865–1931)

NICOLA HICKS

(b. 1960)

LEIF HOLMSTRAND

(b. 1972)

PIPILOTTI RIST

(b. 1962)

AUGUSTE RODIN

(1840–1917)

NINA ROOS

(b. 1956)

HANS ROSENSTRÖM

(b. 1978)

KATJA TUKIAINEN

(b. 1969)

MARIANNA UUTINEN

(b. 1961)

JENS FERDINAND WILLUMSEN

(1863–1958)

Down the Rabbit Hole

TOM CLAASSEN

(b. 1964)

J.F. CLEMENS / NICOLAI ABILDGAARD

(1748–1831, 1743–1809)

ANNA ESTARRIOLA

(b. 1980)

HÅKON GULLVÅG

(b. 1959)

JOHN AUGUSTUS KNAPP

(1853–1938)

ELINA MERENMIES

(b. 1967)

EDUARD RIOU

(1833–1900)

STEN ARE SANDBECK

(b. 1969)

NEDKO SOLAKOV

(b. 1957)

JOHN TENNIEL

(1820–1914)

PER WIZÉN

(b. 1966)

Man-made

FELIPE DE ÁVILA FRANCO

(b. 1982)

PER BARCLAY

(b. 1955)

URSULA BIEMANN

(b. 1955)

INMA HERRERA

(b. 1986)

JUSSI KIVI

(b. 1959)

PETER JOHANSSON

(b. 1964)

BRITTA MARAKATT-LABBA

(b. 1951)

LUCILA MAYOL

(b. 1986)

ELINA MERENMIES

(b. 1967)

GUSTAV METZGER

(1926–2017)

FÉLIX NADAR

(1820–1910)

JOAR NANGO & KEN ARE BONGO

(b. 1979, b. 1983)

MARIELE NEUDECKER

(b. 1965)

TUULA NÄRHINEN

(b. 1967)

JOÃO PENALVA

(b. 1949)

GIOVANNI BATTISTA PIRANESI

(1720–1778)

TAL R

(b. 1967)

PASCALE MARTHINE TAYOU

(b. 1967)

MARKO VUOKOLA

(b. 1967)

YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES

(in collaboration since 1999)

Above ground

You're welcome to explore above ground too!

In the Lasipalatsi Square, you can admire art, the vibrant city life and the building's architecture and vintage neon signs.

You can also borrow a skateboard, kite, loudspeaker, scooter, sidewalk chalk or a game and stay on the museum domes a while. These items are available for two hours at a time from the Amos Rex Shop (deposit required).

amosrex.fi/en/shop/

Tadashi Kawamata: The Nest 7.5.–4.9.2022

The Nest by Japanese artist Tadashi Kawamata is a sculptural art installation in which reclaimed materials surge over the roof of the Lasipalatsi building and soar up the courtyard chimney.

Recycled materials collected in partnership with Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Centre (Kierrätyskeskus).

Find out more:

amosrex.fi/en/gallery-guide/tadashi-kawamata



Subterranean

Guidebook stories and editing

Melanie Orenius

Text and editing

Amos Rex

Translation

Wif Stenger

Illustrations

Ulla Donner

Graphic design

Dog Design

Printing

Grano

Exhibition concept

Pontus Kyander

Exhibition curators

Pontus Kyander

Anastasia Isakova, Amos Rex

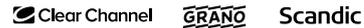
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KONSTSAMFUNDET

Main partners



Partners



AMOS Rex

Amos Rex
Mannerheimintie 22-24
Helsinki
amosrex.fi

Opening hours

Mondays 11-20
Tuesdays closed
Wednesdays 11-20
Thursdays 11-20
Fridays 11-20
Weekends 11-17

Opening hours from 22.6.

Mondays 11-18
Tuesdays closed
Wednesdays 11-18
Thursdays 11-18
Fridays 11-18
Weekends 11-17



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Amos Rex is a discrimination-free zone.

