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Granted by:

Arts Promotion Centre Finland

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Anna Estarriola

MOMENT

23 Sep 2023–3 Mar 2024



***Arch the back. Stretch the hands to the front and back. Ankles straight.
Now stay still... And don't listen to them***

Anna Estarriola's installation transforms the exhibition space into an extended moment in a garden or a greenhouse, where unnatural wonders are cultivated. In a separate enclosure, like a carefully bred plant, a figure levitates or stands on its hair. On the ground, growling creatures await. What is their role in the closed circuit? For how long is it possible to hold the gravity-defying pose?

Simultaneously rising and about to collapse in its superhuman balancing act, the contorted body presents us with a poetic vision pondering humanity's yearning towards the infinite and the not yet possible. The work juxtaposes artistic creation with the cycle of life and hints at the inevitable fall already present in the moment of glory. How much is it possible to control, alter and exceed nature and humanity before

meeting their limits? How far into boundlessness is it possible to reach before being swallowed by it?

Estarriola is known for her uncannily enchanting sculptures and media installations. In her work, the artist combines sculpture, moving image, performance and sound to create affectively charged images, scenes and situations. Estarriola's art often explores encounters between human and non-human, the known and the unknown as well as animate and inanimate existence.

In *Moment*, Estarriola continues evolving the themes of performativity, otherness, power and failure as well as finiteness and eternity inherent in her previous work. Experimenting with different techniques and challenges is also a constant feature of Estarriola's art.

In *Moment*, the artist has created a garden of surreal delights populated with disturbingly detailed yet unreal simulations of beings.

Anna Estarriola (b. 1980 in Catalonia) lives and works in Helsinki. She graduated from Barcelona Fine Arts University in 2004 and received a master's degree from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts in 2009. Estarriola's works have been widely displayed in solo and group exhibitions in Finland and internationally, and they feature in the collections of several art museums in Finland and abroad. Estarriola was awarded the AVEK Award in 2015 and a five-year state artist grant in 2019.

Petra Lehtoruusu
Curator

