

Super High End Underground is the title of a group exhibition that focuses on the meeting between art and fashion in an attempt to uncover aesthetic trends and activist movements that straddle the two domains. The exhibition includes contributions from Ava Samii, Johan Bech Jespersen & Miriam Kongstad, Rasmus Myrup, Louise Lyngh Bjerregaard, Andreas Emenius & Henrik Vibskov, Hannah Toticki, Noah Umur Kanber and Lise Haller Baggesen.

Copenhagen is the focal point for a creative nerve that connects the visual arts with avant-garde fashion. Fashion week in Copenhagen twice a year has put the city on the world map, which attracts many curious visitors who flock to experience the designers' new collections. But where do the designers get their inspiration from? And how do visual artists use fashion in their expression?

The exhibition examines the mutual inspirations and dynamics at play between the fields, which are mutually permeated by both art and commercialism. Where are there overlaps, contrasts and connections between the fields? And what does it say about our times?

Autonomy, disruption, a sense of identity and freedom as well as community and belonging are embedded concepts in several niche environments that often arise as a reaction against an established societal norm. Perhaps because we live in a post-pandemic global crisis time with climate challenges and inflation, the underground environments are characterized by a search for meaning, i.a. through the dissolution of existing social structures. The artistic experiment is complemented by a political, activist commitment with a strong desire to change the world, which affects the aesthetic expression in the fashion industry as well as in contemporary art.

In that light, the exhibition must be experienced as a snapshot of a 'current nerve' in the social picture, which deals with inspiration as a narrative and ephemerality as a core concept.

In a scenography created by inter.agency, Nikolaj Kunsthal's high-ceilinged Nedre Galleri will be transformed from into a sensual and immersive installation consisting of a mix of media and formats – from installations and video projections to sculptures and objects that unfold in the tension between art and fashion, although based on the premises of the visual arts.

Helene Nyborg Bay, artistic director at Nikolaj Kunsthal, elaborates:

"With Super High End Underground, we show a snapshot of the synergy and composition that exists in professional and experimental environments that work across visual arts, fashion and design. There is often a very special connection here - sometimes also stories about underground culture that in unpredictable and complex ways pave the way for new standards and trends. These currents change all the time and are therefore difficult to encapsulate. With this exhibition, we are trying to freeze a snapshot of a special branch of the avant-garde".

The exhibition Super High End Underground can be experienced in Nikolaj Kunsthal in the period 10 February to 28 July 2024.