

Portræt i arkiv med samling (Portrait in Cabinet with Collection)



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Long Shelf Life

A pioneering member of the Danish avant-garde in the 1960s, **Kirsten Justesen (b. 1943)** uses her body as material, tool, and subject in her art. She investigates its relationship to space and concepts of transformation.

Take a closer look

Justesen staged this photograph to celebrate her 70th birthday, reflecting on her long—and still productive—career. Contrast her easy repose with the rigid regimentation of her figurines. A box inscribed “Little old bits of drafts and pieces of pedestals” may imply inspirations for future projects.

Something to talk about

The artist was classically trained and identifies as a sculptor though much of her art exists as photographs, installations, performances, and videos. In what ways does this work reflect Justesen's interest in three-dimensional concepts like form, space, and mass?

In her own words

“I use my own body, it can be undressed, dressed, cast, photographed, drawn. It gets pregnant, older, thinner, and fatter. It is always at hand.”

Kirsten Justesen, *Portræt i arkiv med samling (Portrait in Cabinet with Collection)*, 2013; Chromogenic print mounted on Dibond with matte acrylic, 58¾ x 39½ x 1 inch; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Montana A/S; © Kirsten Justesen; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

