

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

