

Ester Vonplon

Location: Historischer Eiskeller [Historic ice cellar], below the Hotel Bänklialp

A photograph can give us an accurate picture of the current state of the world. But does that mean we understand what it shows? Do we understand, for example, that the beauty of the icebergs in it will soon be irretrievably lost? And when we see it: will we change our priorities and take active countermeasures?

Sustainability is a strong driving force behind Ester Vonplon's work. The artist, who lives in Graubünden, Switzerland, has long been interested in the originality of life away from civilization. She often captures its traces directly in the landscape—sometimes photographically, sometimes with the help of the sun directly on light-sensitive paper. In her video *Walking the Nature*, Vonplon uses moving images for the first time, edited from snapshots she has taken in nature over the past few years. The film notes were made in her home village in the Surselva and in the Arctic, on mountain peaks and in the floodplain forests along the Vorderrhein, recorded with a smartphone, a Super 8 or an old Bolex camera. Circling birds and the drifting of snowflakes create an enraptured atmosphere, while mighty masses of ice plunge into the sea as if in slow motion, accompanied by minimalist soundscapes by electronic duo Taylor Deupree & Marcus Fischer. The former ice cellar of the Engelberg hoteliers underneath today's Hotel Bänklialp is a spectacular setting for this haunting meditation on the necessity of preserving nature—the very basis of our existence. *(roe)*

Ester Vonplon, born in 1980 in Schlieren, lives and works in Castrisch in the Swiss Canton of Graubünden. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, most recently in Switzerland at the KKL Luzern (2023), the Franz Gertsch Museum, Burgdorf (2022), the Museum Sankturbanhof, Sursee (2022), and the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Le Locle (2021).
Further information: estervonplon.net