

PRESS RELEASE

Art as a way to sense and understand the sea

Mining disturbs and pollutes the oceans, damaging ecosystems and threatening species. Yet, many countries do not have policies that address the problem. Greenpeace campaigns to preserve the rich biodiversity of the oceans, and the media are paying more and more attention to the issue, but Deep Sea Mining is a dramatic and urgent planetary problem. It calls for Deep Sea Minding, the title of activist projects and interventions by Superflex, a group of Danish artists that raises concerns about all the things that we do not yet know about the great ocean depths.

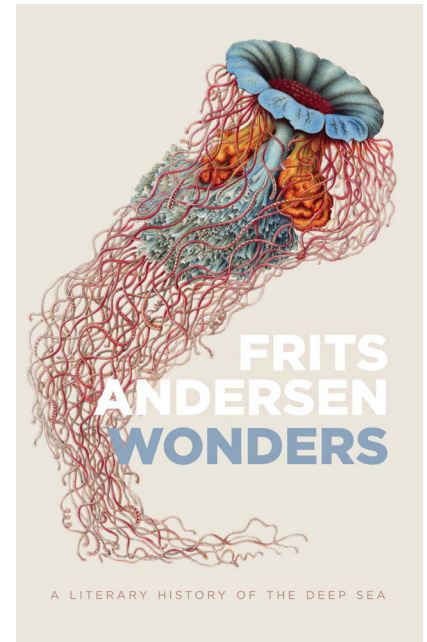
In *Wonders – A Literary History of the Deep Sea*, professor Andersen examines the group's Dive-In installation and other works of art and literature by the likes of Hans Christian Andersen, Victor Hugo, Jules Verne, Jean Painlevé, William Beebe, and Salvador Dalí that help us sense and imagine the sea as an element fundamental to all life and but absolutely alien to us. One of the book's key points is that art accommodates both the enormous span between our individual lives and the planetary dimensions of the climate issue and the enjoyment or enthusiasm we need to overcome paralysis and depression. *Wonders* is a literary history of works that marvel at underwater wonders and an exploration of the ideas about the sea and planet on which human action has historically been based.

"It is no mean feat to make such difficult material easy to understand and make the reader feel they have learned something, been stimulated and intellectually awakened. Once again, the professor of comparative literature at Aarhus University has produced an inviting, knowledgeable and aesthetically beautiful piece of literary history."

- Review by Christopher Messelt in *Norsk Litteraturvitenskapelig Tidsskrift*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Frits Andersen is a professor of Comparative Literature at Aarhus University, Denmark. His previous works include *The Dark Continent? Images of Africa in European Narratives about the Congo* (2016) and *The South Sea Island. A Geography of Pleasure* (2024).



WONDERS. A LITERARY HISTORY OF THE DEEP SEA

By Frits Andersen
ISBN 978 87 7597 122 0
316 PAGES
PRICE 349,95 DKK, £44, \$59, €47
RELEASE DATE: December 13 2024

CONTACT THE AUTHOR

Frits Andersen
litfa@cc.au.dk
Phone + 45 41 89 76 18

CONTACT THE PUBLISHER

presse@unipress.au.dk
Phone +45 53 55 05 42

Aarhus University Press
Helsingforsgade 25
8200 Aarhus N, Denmark
unipress.dk