



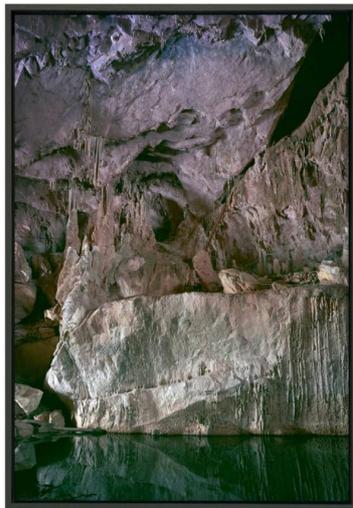
## ELLEN DAHL: Like Rain on a Mountain (the Poetics of Time)

THIS IS NO FANTASY

[Statement](#)

[Works](#)

Ellen Dahl's photographic practice explores the layered relationships between landscape, archaeology, and ecology. Working across photography and installation, she brings together subjects that carry vastly different temporal scales, from ancient sculpture to geological formations and organic materials gathered through fieldwork.



Ellen Dahl  
Untitled/Fissure, 2019  
Price on request



Ellen Dahl  
The Wait, 2025  
€2,500

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Dahl's images hold immense durations alongside quiet, transient moments, allowing human, geological, and ecological time to coexist.

through photography that moves between the monumental and the intimate. Drawing on fieldwork, archival research, and studio experimentation, she brings together subjects shaped by very different temporal frameworks.

Ancient sculptures, geological formations, and ecological materials become points of encounter where time is not presented as linear but as layered and relational. Classical figures shaped by centuries of touch and displacement appear alongside caves formed through mineral accretion and erosion over immense geological durations. Organic materials gathered from the landscape are reconfigured within the studio, grounding these broader temporal narratives in the present.

Working from an evolving image archive, Dahl often revisits earlier photographs, allowing images to shift meaning as they are reinterpreted in new contexts. This process creates a dialogue across time and place, where ancient histories, geological processes, and contemporary ecological concerns intersect.

Photography in Dahl's practice is not treated as neutral documentation but as a means of exploring how time can appear within the image itself. Through careful attention to light, surface, and duration, her photographs invite viewers to encounter time as something unstable and unfolding rather than fixed.

## Ellen Dahl: Photography and Deep Time

Ellen Dahl's photographic practice explores the layered relationships between landscape, archaeology, and ecology. Working across photography and installation, she brings together subjects shaped by vastly different temporal scales, from ancient sculpture and geological formations to organic materials gathered during fieldwork. Her images consider how photography can hold multiple histories within a single frame.



Ellen Dahl, Winner, National Photography Prize 2024, MAMA, Albury. Photograph: Jeremy Weihrauch

## Like Rain on a Mountain (the Poetics of Time)

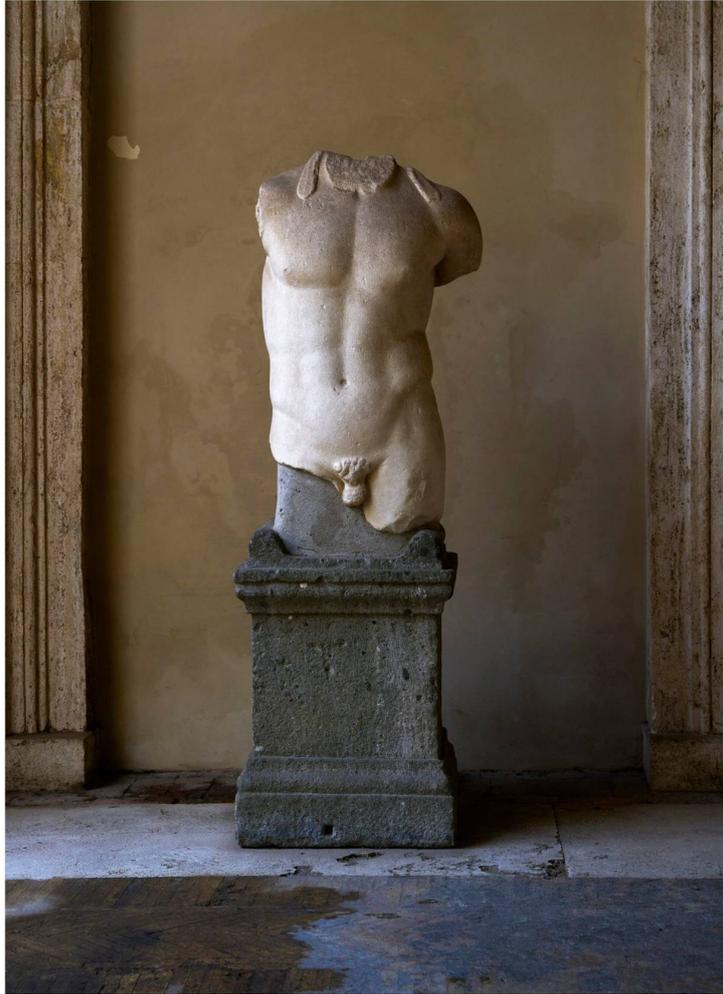
This exhibition presents new and recent photographs that explore the entanglement of human and more-than-human histories. Ancient sculptures, caves, and ecological still lifes appear in quiet dialogue, bringing together subjects shaped by different temporal scales. The works collapse distinctions between the ancient and the contemporary, allowing geological, cultural, and present-day time to coexist.



ELLEN DAHL, *Slow Passage (Void)*, 2019 / 2026

## Ancient Sculpture and Cultural Memory

centuries of touch, weathering, and displacement. Rather than presenting them as symbols of permanence, Dahl photographs these figures as vulnerable bodies marked by time. Fragmented forms and softened details emphasise the ongoing transformation of cultural objects.



ELLEN DAHL, *After the Antique (Study for a Missing Head)*, 2026

### Caves and Geological Time

Caves appear in Dahl's work as spaces where geological time becomes palpable. Formed through processes of mineral accretion, erosion, darkness, and depth, these environments resist human temporal frameworks. Photographed in low light and deep shadow, the images suggest landscapes shaped by slow planetary processes unfolding across immense durations.





ELLEN DAHL, Time Unfolding, 2026

## Ecological Still Lives

Ecological objects collected during field trips form a more intimate register within the exhibition. Stones, shells, plants, and organic fragments are arranged within the studio to create still life compositions. These works connect everyday materials to broader ecological cycles, grounding the exhibition's exploration of deep time within the present moment.



ELLEN DAHL, What Remains of a Mountain, 2026

## Photography and the Poetics of Time

Dahl approaches photography not as neutral documentation but as a way of exploring time itself. Working with low light, uneven illumination, and extended exposure, she allows photographic time to become unstable. Detail softens, colours shift, and duration becomes visible within the image, suggesting that photographs can hold both fleeting moments and immense histories.





ELLEN DAHL, Where Time Takes Hold (Chair), 2018 / 2026

### About the Artist: Ellen Dahl

Ellen Dahl is a visual artist from Arctic Norway who lives and works on Gadigal Country in Sydney. Working across photography and installation, her practice explores landscape, ecological imagination, and the intersections of human and geological time. Her work engages with archaeology, environmental observation, and image archives to examine how photographs mediate encounters between cultural history and planetary processes.



Ellen Dahl, Photo: Simon Strong

[View works \(32\)](#)

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