

Danish artist Mille Kalsmose on a residency at ALMA Space Observatory, one of the world's largest space observatory, in connection with her participation in the 14th Biennale of Media Arts in Santiago de Chile



While in Chile as part of her participation in the 14th Biennale of Media Arts, Kalsmose is collaborating with ALMA Space Observatory astronomers and interrelated scientists on the revolving galaxy and the problematic effects of lithium– a focal points material in “Liquid Relations, Listening Back in Time”, an installation as part of the biennial at the Museo de Artes Visuales (MAVI) in Santiago. During her residency at ALMA, Kalsmose has the chance to delve into the technology and science behind the observatory and current issues in astrochemistry, interferometry and electromagnetism.

Kalsmose constantly seeks to confirm her art scientifically and to amalgamate perception, psychology and sensorial experience with the knowledge of the universe. Kalsmose’s works are a contribution to a broader theoretical research field where anthropocentrism and human essentialism are reevaluated.



In her most recent works, Kalsmose incorporates lithium combined with resin, adding a vivacious physicality to her sculptures and installations. The focus is set on lithium because it is one of the lightest of all metals and a key ingredient in the technological evolution and the development of anti-depressants consumed to balance our inner mind. To this day, lithium remains a stumbling block in the study and investigation of the Big Bang Theory. Researchers at ALMA, among many others, address the alleged cosmological lithium problematic that get in the way of a better understanding of the first few minutes of the creation of the universe. According to astronomers, one cannot find the quantities that the Big Bang Theory predicts and the amount of lithium observed in space.

Kalsmose's installation highlights the immanent quality of each individual material used and encourages the viewers to analyze what is inside and outside of our body and form. The viewer is invited to travel in and around the work and to analyze how the metaphysical can occupy a physical space and vice versa.