Journal 2019
Morten Søndergaard

Opening: Thursday 26.09. 2019 5-7 pm

Duration: 26.09. – 12.10. 2019

I live in Italy in a house on a mountain. The mountain is a few hours' drive from Volterra. Ten years ago, in Volterra I came across a closed psychiatric hospital. The two places, the house on the mountain and the hospital, form the frame of this book.

Since the first time I crawled over the fence into the abandoned buildings, the place has had a strong attraction on me. Today the buildings come across as a ruin but when you walk down the park's branched aisles, histories and traces of time appears. To walk around at the hospital is to move in the ruins of a language. An abandoned language. And it is to discover the history of one of the place's residents, Fernando Oreste Nannetti who wrote a seventy meters long book of stone on the hospital's walls.

Every time I visit the hospital, it has been with an electric feeling of coming home, home to a historical material which contain much pain and much beauty. The photographs and the poems in this book are an attempt at approaching those feelings. I have sensed that I found home to something that was not mine but which I knew all the way into the bones. These beautiful and cruel rooms which storage formulations and bits of sentences from a history which I know but is written in a language I do not master. *Journal* is an attempt at learning this language.

- Morten Søndergaard, foreword to *Journal*, released on 27.09 2019.

Morten Søndergaard (1964 DK) studied at the School of Authors in Copenhagen and holds a master's in literature from Copenhagen University. Selected exhibitions: *Ukend dig selv*, Brandts, Odense (2017), *Sugar Theater*, Panum Institute, Copenhagen (2017), *Wall of Dreams*, Southbank Center, London (2017), *Suture*, BDP, Berlin (2015). In 2015 Søndergaard's commissioned work *Drømmegavlen* was consecrated at Gadekærvej in Valby. 28th of September Søndergaard's exhibition *Language Hospital* opens at Sorø Art Museum.