

The motorway landscape

Do you know the feeling of sitting in a car that for hours eats its way into the black lanes? The thoughts are floating around in my head, while the eyes are watching the traffic and the changes in the landscape we drive through. Conversation with the driver and my fellow passengers, or music and talk from a radio station.

This summer in the middle of July, a weather system out over the North Sea has created bad weather inside Jutland and the islands. We are on our way home from a lovely holiday in Skåne in the southern part of Sweden. Already at the ferry berth on the Zealand side, the weather was beginning to show its teeth. The seabirds tried to find shelter behind the ferry berth. The ferry rocked violently in the big waves, but not enough that the passengers in no way felt seasick.

On the other side of the Kattegat we should continue to the north. Most of the distance before we will be at home, take place on a broad motorway. The speed is high. This trip home in the car is just as something to get through.

But the curiosity about what I see when I have a camera at hand, makes me open my

eyes to the motorway landscape. We know we will run into a major storm farther north. Large, dramatic systems of clouds are building up in front of us. It is a matter of time when the first raindrops hit the windshield, and when we really can feel the wind shake the car. I will take some pictures through the windscreen, while we are running at a speed of just over a hundred kilometres an hour.

The highway and the man-made landscape show a kind of beauty that I really never have accepted. The lines on the lane and the many industrial estates along the motorway represent a gradually dominant landscape everywhere in Denmark. It all testifies to a kind of maturity, because this landscape now is a symbol for the man's inability to develop within the framework of sustainability.

But you can obviously get used to everything. One day, new technology perhaps has made these highways redundant, and many people will stand behind the requirement that highways should be retained - for now they are indeed a significant part of the cultural landscape?



A motorway landscape in Jutland, July 2012