

DØDEN I KALKMINEN
THE DEATH
IN THE LIMESTONE MINE

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Døden i kalkminen

På en varm sommerdag kan oplevelsen være overvældende. Allerede ved minens indgang oplever vi, hvordan det er en anden verden dernede. Kulden kommer os i møde på vej ned i mørket. Uden for er det tæt på tredive graders varme. Inde i minen er temperaturen på kun otte grader.

Det går lidt stejlt ned ved indgangen, men pludselig befinder man sig i en kæmpe grotte. Den rå kalk er synlig overalt. Nogle få steder er der sat lamper op, men der er også levende lys at se rundt omkring.

Var vi kommet ind i minen i 1930'erne, så havde vi mødt minearbejdere i fuld gang med at bryde kalken og bringe den op til overfladen.

I dag finder vi gipsfigurer placeret i de store grotter, som blev formet, da kalken blev fjernet fra minegangene. Kunstværkerne spænder fra afbildning af Maria og Jesus på et æsel til Døden med leen over skulderen på sin usle, udsultede krikke.

Kunstneren bag den unikke ide med at anvende de nedlagte mine til kunstmuseum er Anders Bundgaard, og det er kunstnerens egne gipsfigurer samt værker af billedhuggeren Carl Johan Bonnesen, der i dag pryder de kolde gange nede i kalkundergrunden.

The Death in the limestone mine

On a hot summer day, the experience can be overwhelming. Already at the mine's entrance, we are seeing what it seems to be a different world down there. The cold is coming to us on the way down into the darkness. Outside it is close to thirty-degree heat. Inside the mine, the temperature is only eight degrees.

At the entrance it goes down a bit steeply, but suddenly we find ourselves in a giant cave. Everywhere, the raw lime is visible. In a few places, lamps have been set up, but there are also candles to see all around.

If we had entered the mine in the 1930s, we would have met miners in the process of breaking the limestone and bringing it to the surface.

Today, we find plaster figures placed in the large caves, which were shaped, when the lime was removed from the mine corridors. The artworks range from depiction of Mary and Jesus on a donkey to the Death with the scythe over his shoulder on his wretched jade.

The artist behind the unique idea of using the disused mine for an art museum is Anders Bundgaard, and it is the artist's own plaster figures as well as works by the sculptor Carl Johan Bonnesen that today adorn the cold corridors down in the underground.

Fakta

- For 61,7 til 65,5 millioner år siden: Bryozokalken i den danske undergrund dannes i den geologiske periode Danien.
- År 1926: Undergrundsminen etableres i Tingbæk.
- År 1935: Kalkminen åbner for besøgende.
- Juli 1988: Kalkminen styrter sammen og tre besøgende omkommer.
- I Tingbæk Kalkmine overvintret 200-800 flagermus i perioden oktober/november til marts/april.
- Langt de fleste er af arten Vandflagermus (*Myotis daubentonii*). Også Damflagermus (*Myotis dasycneme*), Frynseflagermus (*Myotis natterei*), Brandts flagermus (*Myotis brandti*) og Langøret flagermus (*Plecotus auritus*) går i dvale i minen om vinteren.

Facts

- 61.7 to 65.5 million years ago: The Bryozoan limestone in the Danish underground formed during the geological period Danien.
- Year 1926: The underground mine is established in Tingbæk.
- Year 1935: The limestone mine opens for visitors.
- July 1988: The limestone mine collapses and three visitors were killed.
- In Tingbæk Kalkmine 200-800 bats overwinter between October/November to March/April.
- The vast majority of the bats are of the species Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*). Also, the pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*), natter's bat (*Myotis natterei*), Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandti*) and long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) hibernate in the mine in winter.



*Tingbæk Kalkmine,
Himmerland, maj 2018*

*Tingbæk Limestone Mine,
Himmerland, May 2018*



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*Tingbæk Kalkmine,
Himmerland, juli 2018*

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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Døden i kalkminen
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The Death in the limestone mine
By Keld Jensen*

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