

Darkness as Material

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for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Performative
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**DOCUMENTED ARTISTIC RESEARCH PROJECT
(DOCTORAL THESIS)**

consisting of

**The film *Secrets of the Sun*
The text *Darkness as Material***

by due permission of Stockholm University of the Arts, Sweden,
is presented for public defence at
SKH, Valhallavägen 189, 24 November 2023, 13.00

Opponent Mara Lee

Examination Committee Magnus Bårtås, Dora Garcia, Gabriela Pichler

Reserve Committee Member Wilhelm Carlsson

Chair of the public defence Cecilia Roos

Supervisor Rebecca Hilton, Elisabeth Hjorth

Organization: Stockholm University of the Arts	Title and subtitle: Darkness as Material
Author(s): Mia Engberg	Date of issue: 24 November 2023 Sponsoring organization:
Abstract (English): The doctoral project <i>Darkness as Material</i> examines darkness as material and its relationship to cinematic storytelling. The study addresses different kinds of darkness: darkness in the image, darkness in the cinema theatre, darkness in the spectator where films are received and the darkness in the filmmaker, where the world is reflected and ideas are born. The project is inspired by Marguerite Duras' idea to kill cinema, and it explores film's potential to approach the place she described as the dark room, where we are deaf and blind and passion is possible.	
Abstract (svenska): Doktorandprojektet <i>Darkness as material</i> undersöker mörkret som material och dess relation till filmiskt berättande. Studien rör sig mellan olika sorters mörker; mörkret i bilden, mörkret i biosalongen, mörkret i åskådaren där filmer tas emot och mörkret inom filmskaparen där samtiden avspeglar sig och idéer föds. Projektet är inspirerat av Marguerite Duras idé att döda filmen och undersöker möjligheten att närma sig den plats som hon kallade för det mörka rummet där vi är döva och blinda och passion är möjlig.	
Key words: cinema, darkness, silence, darkness as material, the visual silence, experimental cinema, essay film, Marguerite Duras, Derek Jarman, Mia Engberg, Hypermoon, Secrets of the Sun, Belleville trilogy,	
Supplementary bibliographical information: The film: Secrets of the Sun The text: Darkness as Material	Language of the thesis: Swedish / English
ISSN and key title: 2002-603X;26 <i>X Position</i> nr. 26	ISBN: 978-91-88407-45-0 978-91-88407-46-7
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