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In Search of Frankenstein

Chloe Dewe Mathews

5 October 2018 to 5 January 2019

In Search of Frankenstein considers the Alpine region that once inspired Mary Shelley's ground-breaking novel, published 200 years ago. In 1816, Mary was holidaying at Lake Geneva during 'The Year Without Summer', the result of a volcanic eruption on the other side of the world. Forced to stay indoors, Mary and her companions (including poets Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley) competed to write the best ghost story.

Two centuries later, Chloe Dewe Mathews has photographed the snow-covered Alps, from the outside and also from within. As well as mountains, lakes and glaciers, her photographs reveal a network of underground bunkers, built to shelter the entire population of Switzerland in the event of a nuclear disaster. Also on view are enlarged pages from Mary Shelley's original manuscript, 'The Geneva Notebook'.

Dewe Mathews says, "I hope my work will inspire viewers to consider themes in Mary Shelley's novel that seem just as relevant today: climate change, man-made disaster and our continuing destructive impact on the natural environment".

To find out more, browse the reading area, watch the film made by New Focus, our young people's collective, or pick up a leaflet with details of talks, workshops and film screenings.

In Search of Frankenstein is the outcome of an Artist Residency at Verbier 3-D Foundation, Switzerland, and a British Library Exhibition supported by Verbier 3-D Foundation, Genesis Imaging, the Bodleian Library and Impressions Gallery.

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 Impressions Gallery
#insearchoffrankenstein



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