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Studies of the Eternal Cycle

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Often myths seem to be able to predict the future findings of science. For millenniums in different cultures stars have been imagined to form various animal, human and plant characters in the night sky. Now it's known that almost all of the elements of living organisms have originated from ancient, dead stars. My new painting series 'We Are All Made of Stardust' is based on this research. The series is painted on glass with dust finely crushed from real stone and iron meteorites. As models for the paintings I have used the 17th-century star atlas illustrations of constellations.

"Both the Sun and the planets are recycled material. Only hydrogen and helium were born in the Big Bang, everything else (for example, the carbon of living beings) originated from the innermost bodies of dead stars where it was born from hydrogen and helium by fusing" explains Esko Valtaoja, emeritus professor of space astronomy, with whom I had an e-mail conversation about the themes of the exhibition.

In the big cycles of life we are all siblings, children of the same stars. Lynxes, birds of paradise and charioteers are all scientifically proven extensions of me. We are not only star descendants, but according to the law of endless life cycles, we are likely to end up being stars again, perhaps to start the whole cycle once more. Valtaoja continues his email: "According to the best estimate, sometimes in 5-6 billion years, the blooming outer edge of the Sun brushes the Earth, which surface is melting and vaporising. Much of this gas will eventually evaporate from the Sun out into space. So you can say that at least our atoms return to the stars - and perhaps in due course they will condense into new stars and planets."

The endless cycle from stars to us and back includes countless shorter cycles of life. Flowers wither and bodies blanch. In the cycle of nature this energy doesn't disappear, but changes its form of manifestation. Mouldering organisms become matter for new life. Both in short and in immeasurably long time frames, life energy manifests itself as eternal. In addition to the paintings, the exhibition offers further points of view on the theme of endless life cycles in the form of two installations, created with bleached flowers and the colours distilled from them.

Our worldview is expanding all the time. Our understanding of the limits of ourselves, the continuity of life, and time is repeatedly given new definitions. Do we, in our own time, experience ourselves so disconnected from the surrounding environment that we use it slowly up? In reality, we all are endlessly intertwined descendants of the same stars, overcoming death time after time. This nightly reminder, fleeing from light pollution, I wanted to capture in my new paintings.