BERGEN KUNSTHALL

English

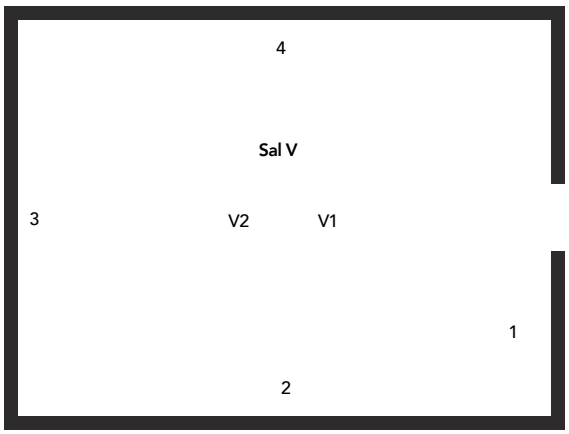
Iter Subterraneum
16. January — 5. April 2026
Gallery 5

The selection of historical book editions is developed in collaboration with the Special Collections at the University of Bergen Library and is accompanied by illustrations and graphic interpretations that have given form to Holberg's subterranean universe in various ways. Reproduced illustrations by Nicolai Abildgaard and Johan Friedrich Clemens are shown in collaboration with the National Gallery of Denmark (SMK), providing insight into how Holberg's story was visualised in the visual culture of the Enlightenment.

Later artistic adaptations of Holberg's subterranean universe are also presented here, including the animated film *Journey to the Planet Nazar* (1983), directed by **Inni Karine Melbye**. The film is accompanied by original backgrounds executed in airbrush technique, highlighting the craft-based foundation of the animation.

Melbye is best known as a designer and TV graphic artist, and for the animated opening sequence *Tryllekassen* (The Magic Box) for children's TV on NRK, which, through daily screenings over several years, is counted among the most-viewed animation works in Norway. As in *Journey to the Planet Nazar*, these were also accompanied by music composed by Jan Garbarek.

In the same period, the *Nazar* series by Bing & Bringsværd continues Holberg's underground journey in a new, speculative narrative register. The covers of the book series are executed in a similar airbrush-based formal language by Peter Haars, and reading copies of the books are available in the exhibition. In contrast, the publication *Niels Klims underjordiske reise*, (Niels Klim's Underground Travels) drawn and retold by Hans Scherfig, is also shown, in which Holberg's story is given form through a completely different, satirical, hand-drawn visual language.



1
Reisen til planeten Nazar, 1983
Norwegian-Danish animation film
Animation: Inni Marie Melbye
Script: Arild Nyquist
Music: Jan Garbarek
18 minutes
Private licensee

2
Inni Karine Melbye
Niels Klim oppdager PLANETEN NAZAR. Et kvinnetre, no date
Airbrush/ Collage
53 x 67 cm
Private owner

Byen KEBA i landet POTU, no date
Airbrush/ Collage
53 x 67 cm
Private owner

Dronningen i POTU – de fornuftige trærs land, no date
Airbrush/ Collage
53 x 67 cm
Private owner

Niels Klim sejler til MASKATTA «de lyksalige trærs land», no date
Airbrush/ Collage
53 x 67 cm
Private owner

«Og alle fugle sang – som ikke stegte vare», no date
Airbrush/ Collage
53 x 67 cm
Private owner

Et klovnetre – i landet POTU, no date
Airbrush/ Collage
53 x 67 cm
Private owner

KUPAK-fuglene på planeten Nazar, no date
Airbrush/ Collage
53 x 67 cm
Private owner

3
Unknown artist, no date
Illustration from a first edition of Ludvig Holberg's *Niels Klim's Underground Travels*

J.F. Clemens
Niels Klims nedfart II, 1786 – 1788
Photocopy of etching
Original dimensions: 18,6 x 12,3 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

J.F. Clemens
Niels Klim troer at høre degnen i Fane Kirke II, 1786 – 1788
Photocopy of etching
Original dimensions: 18,2 x 12,4 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

Nicolai Abildgaard
Vægterne fører en potuaner bort, 1785 – 1787
Photocopy of painting, oil on canvas
Original dimensions: 42,5 x 35,5 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

J.F. Clemens
Niels Klim ser en potuansk misdæder bliver ført afsted af tre vægtere, 1786 – 1788
Photocopy of pencil drawing
Original dimensions: 18,2 x 12,4 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The Mational Gallery of Denmark

Nicolai Abildgaard
Potuanerne undres ved at se Niels Klims knæfald for den vise fyrste, 1785 – 1787
Photocopy of painting, oil on canvas
Original dimensions: 42 x 35,5 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

Nicolai Abildgaard
En potuaner, hvis reformforslag er billiget, bæres i triumf, 1785 – 1787
Photocopy of painting, oil on canvas
Original dimensions: 42 x 35,5 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

J.F. Clemens
Dommen afsiges over en afdød fyrste, 1786 – 1788
Photocopy of etching
Original dimensions: 18,2 x 12,2 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

Nicolai Abildgaard
Lægens hustru røber, at hendes mand vil anatomere Niels Klim til videnskabens fremme, 1785 – 1787
Photocopy of painting, oil on canvas
Original dimensions: 42 x 35,5 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

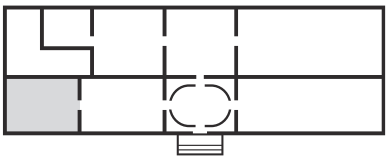
J.F. Clemens
Niels Klim i anatomikammeret, 1786 – 1788
Copper engraving
Original dimensions: 18,3 x 12,3 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

J.F. Clemens
En martiniansk abekat, 1786 – 1788
Photocopy of etching
Original dimensions: 18,2 x 12,2 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

Unknown artist, no date
Illustration from a first edition of Ludvig Holberg's *Niels Klim's Underground Travels*

J.F. Clemens
Den skibbrudne Niels Klim reddes af to Qvamiter i en vidiebaad, 1786 – 1788
Photocopy of etching
Original dimensions: 18,5 x 12,2 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

Nicolai Abildgaard
Niels Klim kryber ind i hulen, 1788
Photocopy of pencil drawing
Original dimensions: 15,6 x 11,2 cm
Downloaded from SMK Open, The National Gallery of Denmark

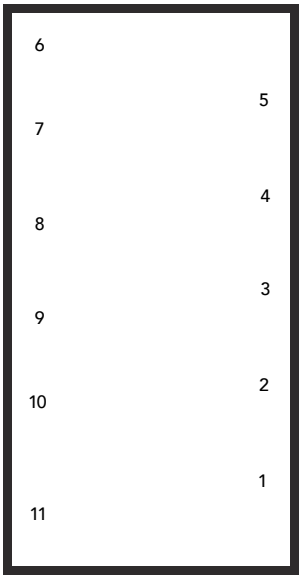


4
Niels Klims underjordiske reise – tegnet og gjenfortalt av Hans Scherfig
A/S Falken Forlag, Oslo, 1983
Reading copy – you are welcome to browse the book

Bing & Bringsværd
Nazar-antologiene 1 – 5
Lanterne science fiction
Gyldendal Norsk Forlag A/S, 1975 – 1980
Reading copies – you are welcome to browse the books

V1
See separate list later in this handout

V2
See separate list later in this handout



VITRINE 1

1
Ludvig Holberg
Nicolai Klimii iter subterraneum: novam telluris theoriam ac historiam qvintae monarchiae adhuc nobis incognitae exhibens: e bibliotheca B. Abelini
1741
Hafniae & Lipsiae - Sumptibus Iacobi Preussii
Latin

2
Ludvig Holberg
Nicolai Klimii iter subterraneum: novam telluris theoriam ac historiam qvintae monarchiae adhuc nobis incognitae exhibens: e bibliotheca B. Abelini
1741
Hafniae & Lipsiae - Sumptibus Iacobi Preussii
Latin

3
Ludvig Holberg
Nicolai Klims unterirdische Reise: worinnen eine ganz neue Erdbeschreibung wie auch eine umständliche Nachricht von der fünften Monarchie, die uns bishero ganz und gar unbekannt gewesen, enthalten ist aus dem Bücher-Vorrathe Herrn B. Abelins anfänglich Lateinisch heraus gegeben; jetzto aber ins Deutsche übersetzt
1741
Copenhagen und Leipzig Verlegts Jacob Preusz
German

4
Luvig Holberg
Niels Klims Reise under Jorden: forestillende en nye Kundskab om Jorden: og Historie om det femte Monarchie, som hidindtil har været os ubekiendt funden blant Abelins efterladte skrevne Bøger paa latin og oversat af latin paa dansk
1742
Kiøbenhavn Jacob Preusse
Danish

5
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims Reise under Jorden: forestillende en nye Kundskab om Jorden: og Historie om det femte Monarchie, som hidindtil har været os ubekiendt funden blant Abelins efterladte skrevne Bøger paa Latin og oversatt af Latin paa Dansk, samt til Trykken befordret efter special Kongelig allernaadigst Bevilning for Jacob Preusses Fallit-Boed
1742
Kiøbenhavn Trykt af Herman Henrich Rottmer
Danish

6
Ludvig Holberg
Nicolai Klimii iter subterraneum: novam telluris theoriam ac historiam qvintae monarchiae adhuc nobis incognitae exhibens: e bibliotheca B. Abelini
1745
Hafniae & Lipsiae Sumptibus Christiani Gottlob Mengelii et Soci
Latin

7
Ludvig Holberg
Nicolai Klimii iter subterraneum: novam telluris theoriam ac historiam qvintae monarchiae adhuc nobis incognitae exhibens: e bibliotheca B. Abelini
1754
Hafniae & Lipsiae Sumptibus Frid. Christian Pelt
Latin

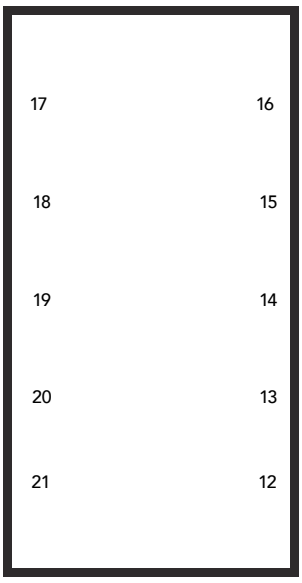
8
Ludvig Holberg
Nicolai Klims unterirdische Reise: worinnen eine ganz neue Erdbeschreibung wie auch eine umständliche Nachricht von der fünften Monarchie, die uns bisher ganz und gar unbekannt gewesen, enthalten ist aus dem Büchervorrathe Herrn B. Abelins anfänglich Lateinisch heraus gegeben, jetzo aber ins Deutsche übersetzt
1762
Copenhagen und Leipzig verlegts Friedrich Christian
German

9
Ludvig Holberg
De onderaardsche Reis van Klaas Klim: behelzende eene nieuwe Beschryving van den Aardkloot, benevens de Historie der vyfde, tot nog toe onbekende, Monarchy uit het Latyn van den Heere Baron Lodewyk van Holberg, Hoogleraar in de Historïen en Philosophie, Lid yan de Koninglyke Maatschappye der Weetenschappen, enz. te Koppenhagen
1778
Te Amsterdam By de Wed. van Esveldt en Holtrop
Dutch

10
Ludvig Holberg
Nicolai Klims unterirdische Reise: worinnen eine ganz neue Erdbeschreibung wie auch eine umständliche Nachricht von der fünften Monarchie, die uns bisherganz und gar unbekannt gewesen, enthalten ist aus dem Büchervorrathe Herrn B. Abelins anfänglich Lateinisch herausgegeben, jetzo ins Deutsche übersetzt. Mit Churfürstl. Sächs. gnäd. Privilegio
1780
Berlin Bey Christian Friedrich Himburg
German

11
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klimm's unterirdische Reisen neuverteutscht
1788
Berlin Bey Christian Friedrich Himburg
German

On loan from the Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection, Section of Special Collections,
University of Bergen Library



VITRINE 2

12
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims underjordiske Reise ved Ludvig Holberg; oversat efter den latinske Original af Jens Baggesen
1880
Kjøbenhavn Nyt dansk Forlagskonsortium
Danish

13
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims Reise under Jorden: en politisk-satirisk Roman skreven paa Latin af Ludvig Holberg; efter den baggesenske Oversættelse paa ny udgiven med Rettelser og Forandringer ved J.C. Lange; med sexten Kobbere
1834
Kiøbenhavn I Commission hos C. Steen
Danish

14
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims underjordiske Reise ved Ludvig Holberg; oversat efter den Latinske Original af Jens Baggesen; udgivet af I. Levin
1867
Kiøbenhavn Schubothe
Danish

15
Ludvig Holberg
Nils Klims underjordiska resa af Ludwig Holberg
1884
Stockholm Bokförlagsföreningen Swea
Swedish

16
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims underjordiske Reise ved Ludvig Holberg; oversat efter den latinske Original af Jens Baggesen
1905
København og Kristiania Gyldendalske Boghandel
Danish

17
Ludvig Holberg
Voyage de Niels Klim dans le monde souterrain traduction de Mauvillon; rev. par Gilles-Gerard Arlberg, 1949>
Paris
French

18
Ludvig Holberg
The journey of Niels Klim to the world underground by Ludvig Holberg; introduced and edited by James I. Mc Nelis, Jr.
1960
Lincoln [Neb.] University of Nebraska Press
English

19
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims underjordiske Reise 3
1980
Bergen - Beyer Forlag
Norwegian

20
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims underjordiske rejse: et tekstudvalg Ludvig Holberg; [udvalg] ved Karen Voetmann
1982
København - Munksgaard
Danish

21
Ludvig Holberg
Niels Klims underjordiske reise Ludvig Holberg; tegnet og gjenfortalt av Hans Scherfig
1983
Oslo Falken forl.
Norwegian

On loan from the Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection, Section of Special Collections, University of Bergen Library

Events

Opening
Fri 16 Jan 20:00

Opening Party
With DJ Karina Sletten
Fri 16 Jan 22:00
Landmark

Plattform: Artist Talks
Mira Adoumier, Robert Gabris, Cecilia Fiona & Museum Ovartaci
Lør 17 Jan 14:00 Gratis
Upstairs
In English

Talk: *Luvdig Holberg og Niels Klims fantastiske verden*
Tor 5 Feb 18:00
Litteraturhuset i Bergen, in collaboration with LitFest Bergen and Selskapet til Vitenskapenes Fremme

Talk and screening with Qi Tan: *What's Inside What's Inside*
Wed 11 Feb 19:00
Thu 12 Feb 19:00
In collaboration with Northing Space

Plattform: Dr. Giovanni Aloi
Online talk
Sun 22 Feb 14:00 Gratis
In English

Film: Bergen Kunsthall x BIFF Lokal *Underland* (2025)
Wed 18 Mar 19:00
Landmark

Thematic Dinner: A gastronomic journey through the secret life of plants
Wed 25 Mar Details TBA
Sign-up: kunsthall.no

Performance: *One Fig*
Ingela Ihrman
TBC Mar 2026

BOREALIS 2026

Plattform: Cecilia Fiona in conversation with Camille Norment
Thu 12 Mar 13:00 Gratis

Performance: *Infinite Pollination* by Cecilia Fiona
Sat 14 Mar 12:00, 15:00
60,- / 145,- / 265,-

GUIDED TOURS

Every Sunday
13:00 Tours and workshop for families
14:00 Guided tour

Bergen Kunsthall

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Kjersti Solbakken
Director

Jade Meili Barget
Curator Live Programme

soso brafield
Communication

Sofia Marie Hamnes
Live Producer

Thea Haug
Members and Reception

Ragna Haugstad
Bookstore

Sarah Jost
Gallery Manager Assistant

Mai Lahn-Johannessen
Program Manager

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Head of Communication

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AV-technician

Jonette Vindenes
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Eric Alvin Wangel
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Historical archival material in collaboration with:
Section of Special Collections, University of Bergen Library

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