

PAN

AMSTERDAM

FLAT // LAND



Close to the Arctic circle (at Great Bear Lake), 2024

Toned cyanotype in stainless steel frame
61 x 46 cm

In *Views of Nature* (2024–2025), De Rode explores the eponymous travelogues of 19th-century naturalist Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859), who is considered the father of ecology. As a product of Romanticism while simultaneously laying the foundation for a scientific discipline, Humboldt serves as an allegorical personification of De Rode's exploration of the interplay between reason and feeling in perception. Using excerpts from *Ansichten der Natur* (1808) as both titles and starting points, De Rode oscillates between analysis and affect, exploring both his surroundings and his inner world.

The cyanotype - often used as a tool for botanical documentation - allows for a counter-narrative. Through toning the cyanotypes with a variety of natural tannins, the works acquire an earthy character that better reflects the natural world while aiming to spark a sense of wonder and mysticism through their subject matter and pictorialism. Aiming for balance in reason and feeling, *Views of Nature* reflects on Humboldt's plea for sensibility as a potential antidote to modern day alienation.