

## **Atlas's daughter (2012)**

### **Mixed media**

In 1892 Axel Ebbe sculptured Atlas's daughter. The sculpture was regarded obscene so Axel could only show it in his studio. The sculpture became a success.

According to the Greek mythology Atlas is carrying the celestial sphere. Atlas is also the name on one of the detectors at CERN in Switzerland where scientists discovered the Higgs particle in 2012. Higgs is the particle that gives mass to other particles. A particle becomes heavier with increased strength in the Higgs field (stronger bond to the Higgs particles). Those particles travelling through the Higgs field without noticing it get no mass! Particles interacting weakly has a low mass and those who get through with difficulties are really heavy.

At the bottom of the artwork is Atlas's daughter in a modern version. In the middle is a sketch of the Atlas detector. At the top particles get their masses. The smaller grey circles symbolizes Higgs particles. The larger circle symbolizes the particle getting mass.

It was in 1964 three physicists suggested there could be a certain particle giving other particles their masses. Peter Higgs was one of them. Choosing the name Higgs is because the name is short and simple. It took 48 years from the theory until the Higgs particle was seen in an experiment!