



PIA-VERÓNICA ÅSTRÖM

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Painting as Form
Diploma presentation
Abstract Painting
January 2021

Pia-Veronica Åström: "Painting as Form"
Diploma Work, Abstract Painting,
Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna
January 2021

My diploma project entitled "Painting as Form" consists of three oil paintings in the formats 200 x 200 cm and 280 x 160 cm and one 900 cm painterly object. The presentation is grounded on the idea of the medium as narrative and is an excerpt from an ongoing painting process, concluded on January 10th 2021.

In the struggle of searching an abstract visual language I have learnt that there is no perfect painting. Yet, when the unexpected appears like magic, when everything was thought as lost, the blissful moments when one can start seeing a way out from the blindness are those which make me not give up painting.

Between 2016–2019 I destroyed stocks of paintings. Heavy multi layered canvases with oil and tempera were skinned and ripped, later to be stitched together into a three dimensional form. Some of these paintings had been painted on for a year ahead. The skins as I referred them to seduced me and gave me reasons to believe in new beginnings.

As for my painting process, the canvases are always leaning towards the wall when I am working so that I can see the image evolve.

I rotate them frequently throughout each painting session and I am working on minimum three paintings at the time.

I was asked what I draw my inspiration from, as well, who are the artists who influence me. A painter I have related to in terms of how to paint and not what is painted, is Francis Bacon. He used tools and cloths or whatever he could find and built his images on coincidence and gestural strokes of luck. That is the same way I do it.

The titles of my paintings can come quite randomly but are not always important. I like the abstract figural connotations to my work, because even if starting from zero there is always an intention towards it. I need to know where I draw my abstractions from even if they themselves are abstract and imaginative.

If I think too much of what I think I want it to be, it never works. The painting needs to unfold itself and find its characterization through coincidental gestures, which I liked and kept and further built on. It finds its narrative on its own terms. That is what I like my art to communicate.

Rock and Mirrow 2021, Oil on canvas, 200 x 200 cm



Movement, 2020, Oil on canvas, 200 x 200 cm



Distance II, 2020, Oil on canvas, 280 x 160 cm



Installation View
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3x oil on canvas,
1x 900 cm painterly object.
Materials: Oil, canvas, multi layered
destroyed oil paintings, thread.
Installation cube: 800 x 400 x 1200 cm









Contact

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