



galleryHOUSE

SUMMER OF THE WILD WALLFLOWER

JANA BRIKE



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Introduction by Jo Minhinnett

In Summer of the Wild Wallflower, Jana Brike radically reimagines her own coming-of-age story in scenes bursting with colour, scantily-clad females, and sexual discovery.

Painted with the precision and realism of the classical tradition, Brike's work shares the aspirations of Symbolism as she invites viewers into a private fantasy of her personal dreams and ambitions. Brike presents her characters as archetypal females in the heat of adolescence and in a place far from the reaches of our modern world. Here, they are free to explore their feminine identity and sexuality with ultimate autonomy. In this new series of oil paintings on canvas, Brike's characters display a greater boldness; there are few traces of the sadness or anxiety seen in her previous works. Even a hint of defiance is admitted

in her painting of a dark-haired girl against a fiery horizon, her blue brassiere set aflame and slung gallantly over one shoulder.

In these paintings, Brike celebrates the most adventurous narratives of womanhood and illuminates teenage experience, without all the angst. There is nothing that can be secret or hidden under the harsh light of summer. Not even a wallflower can stay in the shadows of awkwardness and doubt. Brike's youthful characters are unselfconscious in the way they spend their afternoons lazing outdoors, engaging in spontaneous games, and enjoying guileless encounters. It is here that Brike envisions an idyllic teen-hood where females, free from the pressures of society, can bask in the delight of their own bodies.

At times we cross into uncomfortable territory—her characters, strikingly child-like, often appear naked or at varying degrees of undress. We see underwear and too-pink flesh, the promise of bodily pleasures and unrealized erotic potential. While some characters confront the viewer with their gaze, others are serenely unaware.

However, Brike doesn't mean to provoke us with indecency nor turn us into voyeurs. Her paintings are deeply rooted in her own struggle with the transition between adolescence and womanhood. As though projecting herself into an alternate dream-reality, she often paints her own face onto these protagonists who become subversive, tender, and playful all at once. Neither children nor adults, Brike calls them female "creatures". The word

has a completely different sense from the way teenage boys use it to describe the five mysterious sisters in Jeffrey Eugenides 1993 novel. For Brike, "creatures" connotes a hybrid persona embodying both innocence and experience, hovering between different stages of knowing.

In her imagining of a place where females respond intuitively, rather than according to a gendered social system, Brike transgresses the oppressiveness of her upbringing in Latvia under Soviet rule. In her own words, her paintings offer "a very distinctive and different world view. . . where there is no competition for a better place under the sun, where there is no hierarchy, where everybody and everything is quite equally in the very, very centre of their own life, not as an ego but as a beingness." To invoke this utopic vision, Brike positions her figures within ideal natural settings—backdrops of voluminous clouds, erupting waves, clear evening skies, and a secluded forest along a water's silvery edge. Using the notion of the sublime in nature, Brike endows her characters with a heroic quality and elevates their plainly exposed bodies and frank emotions into icons of a mystical world. The message is of self-renewal and human transformation: "There is just one step from being a victim of our own life, to being a hero."

It is that clash between a majestic natural world and the irreverent figures frolicking within it that creates a palpable tension in her work. Mixing classicism with kitsch and sacred with the profane, Brike's fantasy is so exaggerated that one must question the darkness it conceals. The hope of restoration comes only from nature. The pale wings of moths settle on old scars. Flowers abundantly grow in the anatomy of desire: between legs, around the seams of underwear, and across closed eyelids. In these carefully placed symbols, Brike seeks to eradicate common labels of what is considered to be unnatural or taboo in the female body.

While they are in one sense self-confessional, the paintings in *Summer of the Festive Wallflower* do not linger on self-pity. Rather, they are animated with confidence and the carefree energy of youth. Evoking the spirit of her Latvian folkloric traditions, Brike constructs a visceral space where female characters come to womanhood on their own terms; their expressions are direct and unapologetic—longing, pleasure, stillness, synergy, curiosity, and youthful abandon transcend the every day, glittering with the possibilities of making one's history anew.

Wildflowers on the Edge of a Cliff, 2018
24 x 32"
Oil on canvas







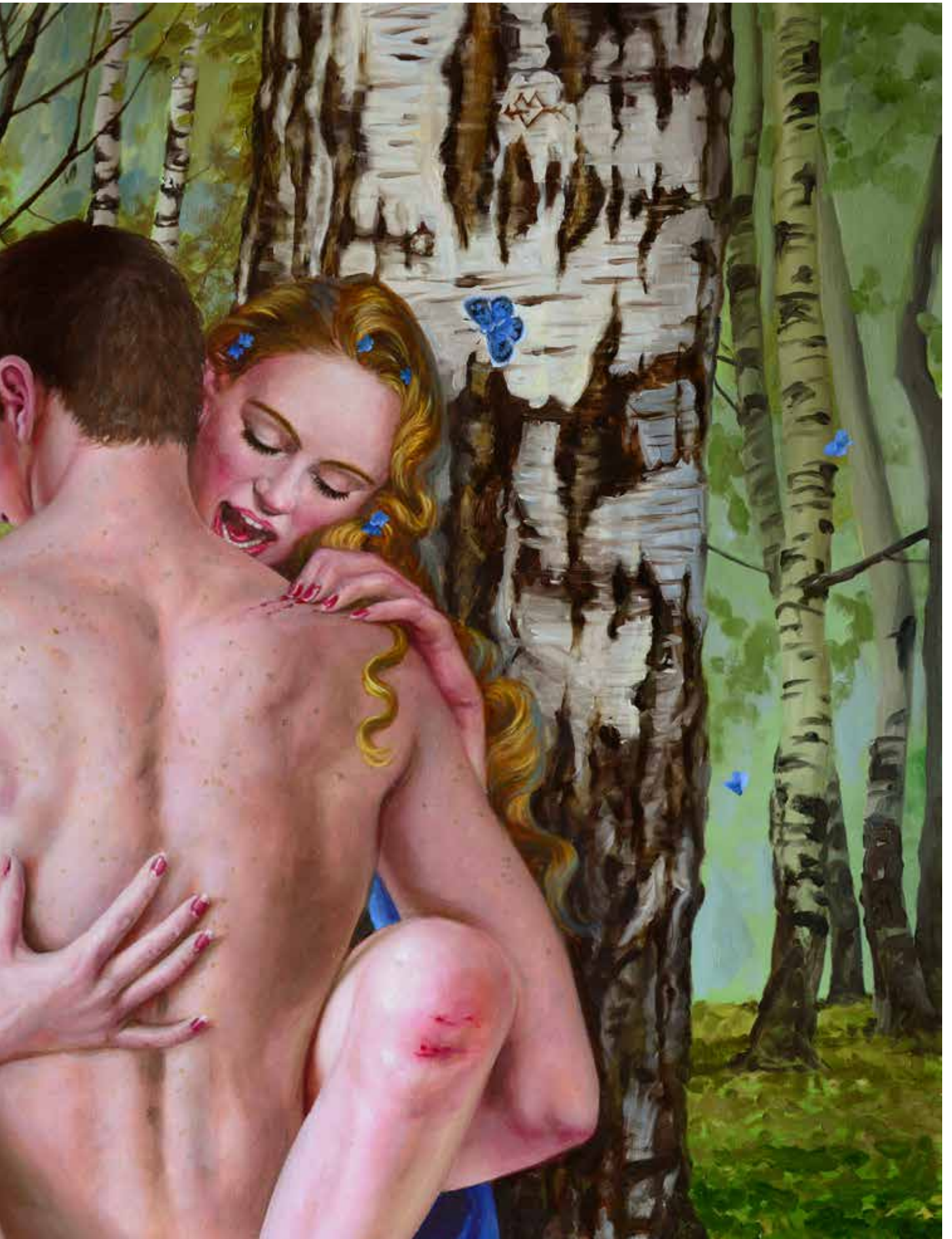
The Procession, 2018
20 x 24"
Oil on canvas

Mayday, 2018
12 x 12" Oil on canvas





Echos From The Centre Of The World, 2018
24 x 32"
Oil on canvas





Into The Dark, 2018
8 x 8"
Oil on canvas



Wild Honey, 2018
12 x 12"
Oil on canvas



Tour Guide and the Runaway Princess, 2018
16 x 24"
Oil on Canvas

Summer of the Wild Wallflower, 2018
20 x 24"
Oil on canvas









Spring Break, 2018
24 x 32"
Oil on canvas

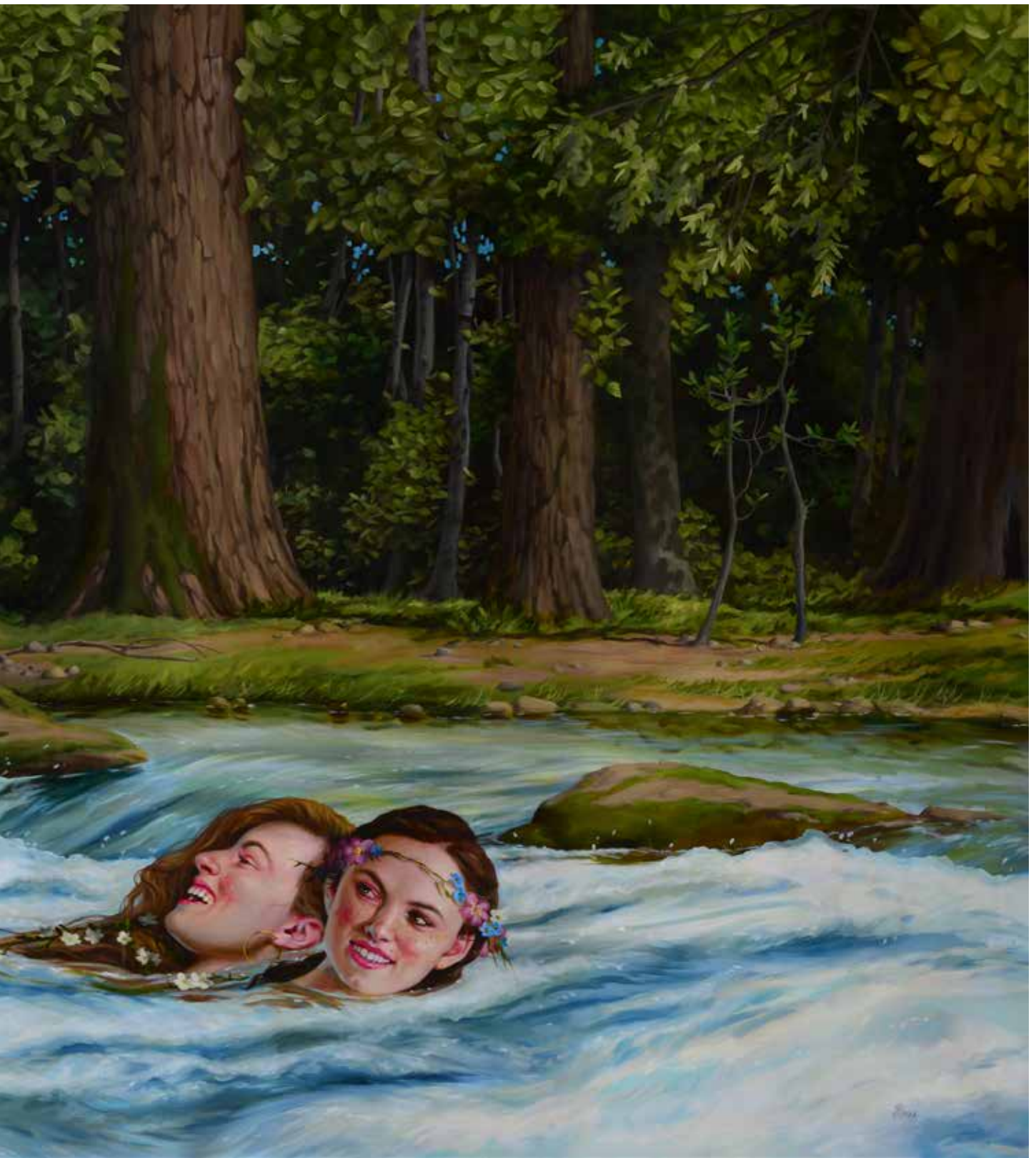


The Deep Waters, 2018
40 x 44"
Oil on canvas



Sacred Heart, 2018
8 x 8"
Oil on canvas





Swimming Lessons, 2018
44 x 79"
Oil on canvas



Blood Moon, 2018
20 x 24"
Oil on canvas





New Day Rising, 2018
11.5 x 15"
Oil on canvas



Two Angels In The Deep Dark Woods, 2018
11.5 x 15"
Oil on canvas



Education

2003 – 2005 Art Academy of Latvia, painting department, master course

Figurative painting Master class, Professors K.Zariņš, N.Brasliņš, J.Jurjāns

1999 – 2003 Art Academy of Latvia, painting department, bachelor course

1991 - 1998 J.Rozental Riga Art secondary school

Major Exhibitions

2018

“Summer of the Wild Wallflower” solo exhibition, Gallery House, Toronto, Canada

2017

“Ebbs and Flows of Heartblood” solo exhibition, William Baczek Fine Arts gallery, Northampton, USA

12th annual BLAB exhibition, Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA

“Small Works” annual exhibition, BeinArt gallery, Melbourne, Australia

“Savage Eden” solo exhibition, Vinyl on Vinyl gallery, Manila, Philippines

“Lush”, 4-person exhibition in BeinArt gallery, Melbourne, Australia

“Animal Kingdom” group exhibition in William Baczek Fine Arts gallery, Northampton, USA

LA Art Show 2017 with Arcadia gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2016

“Superabundance of Ordinary Being” solo exhibition, Modern Eden gallery, San Francisco, USA

“12 by 12 in 12” group exhibition in Arcadia gallery, Los Angeles, USA

“About a Girl” mini solo at the Gallery of the Youth, Kyoto, Japan

“The Hours of Silence” exhibition in Gallery House, Toronto, Canada; co-curated by Ray Caesar

“Femme to Femme Fatale” exhibition, Modern Eden Gallery, San Francisco, USA; co-curated by Beautiful Bizarre Magazine

“Amethyst” exhibition in Arch Enemy Arts gallery, Philadelphia, USA

11th annual BLAB exhibition, Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA

“Suggestivism” exhibition, Spoke Art gallery, San Francisco, USA; co-curated by Nathan Spoor

“Small Works” exhibition, BeinArt gallery, Melbourne, Australia

“Selfie” exhibition, Stephanie Chefas gallery, Portland, USA

2015

“Anatomy of Innocence” solo exhibition, Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA

“Don’t Wake Daddy X” annual invitational exhibition in Feinkunst Kruger gallery, curated by Heiko Muller, Hamburg, Germany

“13th Hour” group exhibition in Last Rites gallery, New York, USA

“Les Petit Fours” group exhibition co-curated by Friends of Leon Gallery and Beautiful Bizarre Magazine, Sydney, Australia
„The BLAB! Show”, annual group exhibition; Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA. Curator Monte Beauchamp

“Ephemeral: Territory of Girls” group exhibition in Jiro Miura gallery, Tokyo, Japan

“Storybook” group exhibition, Modern Eden gallery, San Francisco, USA, co-curated by the Warholian’s Michael Cuffe

“Inevitably Imperfect” group exhibition, Vinyl on Vinyl gallery, Manila, Philippines; curated by Dan Barry and Dexter Sy

“Golden” group exhibition in Modern Eden gallery, San Francisco, USA

“Floating Intersections” group exhibition in Pink Zeppelin Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2014

“Milk” 4 person exhibition in Secret Fresh gallery, Manila, Philippines

“Mysterium Cosmographicum” group exhibition in Stephen Romano gallery, New York, USA

“Small Indignities” group exhibition in the Red Truck gallery, New Orleans, USA

“After The End of Time” solo exhibition, FB69 gallery, Muenster, Germany

“Welcome to the Dreamtime” group exhibition in Stephen Romano gallery, New York, USA

“Suggestivism” group exhibition in Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA, curated by Nathan Spoor

„The BLAB! Show”, annual group exhibition; Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA. Curator Monte Beauchamp
Metro Show 2014, With Stephen Romano gallery, New York, USA

2013

“My Parallels Lives” solo exhibition, Maksla XO gallery, Riga, Latvia

PULSE New York Art Fair and The Metro Show; with independent curator Stephen Romano

“Something Wicked This Way Comes” Cella Gallery, Los Angeles, USA; curated by Stephanie Chefas

“Draw” group exhibition, Auguste Clown Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

“Inevitably Imperfect” group exhibition, Artery Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand; curated by Dan Barry

“Songs of Purity” solo exhibition, Distinction gallery, San Diego, California, USA

“Painted Sound” group exhibition, Flower Pepper Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2012

“Winter of Love” solo exhibition, Mondo Pop gallery, Rome, Italy

The Metro Show Art Fair; with independent curator Stephen Romano

“Anomalies”, group show by Beinart Collective; Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA

„The BLAB! Show”, annual group exhibition; Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA. Curator Monte Beauchamp

“Go with the Flow” group exhibition, Lucca, Italy; curated by Elena Girelli

Preview Berlin Art Fair; with “Maksla XO” gallery

“Taboo”, group show by Beinart Collective; Last Rites gallery, New York, USA

“Vending Art Machine” project by Oficina 36; Barcelona, Spain; with “Maksla XO” gallery

SWAB, art fair and TOYZ for FLS auction; Barcelona, Spain; with “Maksla XO” gallery

“This is So Contemporary” group show, Ayden Gallery, Vancouver, Canada; curated by Daniela De Giorgi Petkovic
Closeup of pop-surrealism and Urban Art; Miomao gallery, Perugia, Italy

2011

Solo show “Milk and Blood” gallery “Maksla XO”, Riga, Latvia
“Krampus show” gallery „Curly Tale”, Chicago, USA; curated by Monte Beauchamp

“Taetrum et Dulce” show, Mondo Pop Gallery, Rome, Italy; curated by Dan Barry and David Vecchiato

Solo show „Voyage Inside” gallery „Curly Tale”, Chicago, USA

„The BLAB! Show”, annual group exhibition; Copro gallery, Los Angeles, USA. Curator Monte Beauchamp

„Beyond Black and White” National Library of St Petersburg, Russia

„Sanrio For Smiles” charity show for festival „Mi Japan”, Chiostris dell’Umanitaria, Milano. Curated by Christian Gancitano

„The BLAB! Show” gallery „Roq La Rue”, Seattle, USA.

Curated by Monte Beauchamp

Solo show „Book of Taboo” gallery „Distinction”, San Diego, California, USA

2010

Solo show „Science of Sleep” in White Piano house, Sigulda, Latvia

group show „Subtleties of Character” gallery „WWA”, Los Angeles, California, ASV

installation „Comfort me Again” for project „Experimental Station Laimdota” Contemporary Music and Art Festival, Cesis, Latvia. Curated by Daiga Kruze

„Horrorwood” group show, gallery „WWA”, Los Angeles, California, USA

group show „Jest in Time. The Phylogenesis of Clowns” gallery „Distinction”, San Diego, California, USA

Solo show „The Lost Children” gallery „Distinction”, San Diego, California, USA

2009

“Unbearable Freedom” show of young figurative painters; in

the program of the “White Night 2009” festival, Riga, Latvia

Art Zurich 2009, Switzerland

“The Dark Arts Laboratory” show in gallery Slazds, Riga, Latvia

„European cities in the paintings of Latvian artists II”. Gallery ASuna, Riga and in the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the EU, Brussels, Belgium

“Good-bye cruel world!” exhibition of contemporary painting.

Gallery Alma, Riga, Latvia

International Contemporary Art Fair Europ’ART Geneve 2009

„Purity”. Drawing exhibition of young Latvian contemporary artists. Creative space Tasty, Riga, Latvia

Bridge Art Fair. New York, USA

2008

Contemporary art fair „Lineart”, Belgium /Gallery Art Garden/
Exhibition of the contemporary Latvian art in consulate of Latvia in Zurich, Switzerland

„Painting of the year” juried exhibition of contemporary painting. Gallery ASuna, Riga, Latvia

„Autumn 080808, I am Georgian!”. The annual juried exhibition of Latvian contemporary art. The gallery of the Latvian Artist Union, Riga, Latvia

„Time”. The Exchange Project of the Latvian and Finnish artists. Exhibition in Helsinki, Finland /Organizer from Latvia - gallery ASuna/

„Take your time”. The new Latvian painters – exhibition of the contemporary figurative painting. Part of the festival program ‘White nights 2008’. Strelnieku street, Riga, Latvia. Curator Inga Bunkse

International Contemporary Art Fair Europ’ART Geneve 2008 / artists Normunds Braslins, Reinis Virtmanis, Ritums Ivanovs and Jana Brike/

”Cameo II” miniature exhibition in gallery Art Garden, Riga, Latvia

The Art Now Fair. Hotel 30/30, New York, USA /artists Normunds Braslins and Jana Brike/

„European cities in the paintings of Latvian artists”. The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the EU, Brussels, Belgium

„Appgāztais prieks” (Joy Inverted). Latvian contemporary painting. Gallery Mans’s, Jekabpils, Latvia

The Art EXPO Fair. New York, USA.

ART Innsbruck 2008. International Fair for Contemporary Art. Innsbruck, Austria

2007

„Painting of the year” gallery ASuna, Riga, Latvia

Solo show „Playground” in gallery Bastejs, Riga, Latvia

„Viss ir balts” (Everything is White). Exhibition in gallery Laipa, Valmiera, Latvia

“Myth about...” group show of contemporary painting, in consulate general of Latvia, St. Petersburg, Russia

Visual art project ”Ropažu plenērs 2007” (Plein air of Ropazi

2007), Ropazi, Latvia

“Silence”. Open Air Museum of Ventspils, Latvia

9th International Contemporary Art Fair ‘Art International Zurich’. Kongresshaus Zurich, Switzerland

Brighton Art Fair 2007 /Gallery Rhapsody House/, UK

Art & Soul. Fine art auction in aid of Demelza Hospice Care for Children, Tunbridge Wells, UK

2006

„Bounded transference”. Latvian contemporary painting.

Gallery Mans’s, Jekabpils, Latvia

„Rudens 2006” (“Autumn 2006”) annual Latvian contemporary visual art exhibition, organised by Latvian Artist Union, Railway museum, Riga, Latvia

„My tender beast” graphic exhibition in gallery Art Garden, Riga, Latvia

„Mondo Lettone. Made in Italy” Exhibition together with Latvian artists Ilze Jaunberga and Toms Izaaks. Torre Aragonese, Bose Marina, Sardinia, Italy

Contemporary women artists, exhibition within the framework of the conference of female rights, Kreishaus, Gitterslo region, Germany

“Human” Exhibition of figurative painting, exhibition hall of Riga Art and Design College, Riga

Tra i colori del Carnevale. Artisti Baltici a confronto con artisti Sardi – exhibition of Latvian and Sardinian contemporary artists. Corso Giacomo, Tempio Pausania, Sardinia, Italy

Art Salzburg 2006

Exhibition of the Latvian contemporary painting, castle of Jekabpils, Latvia

“L’Eros degli Artisti da Est a Ovest” for Priapeide 2006, San Maurizio square, Venice, Italy

2005

Exhibition “Painting of The Year”, gallery “ASuna”, Riga, Latvia
Cafe Art Exhibition of gallery RTBiz, Edinburgh, UK

Exhibition of Latvian artists “Surprising Academy” in gallery “La Serre”, in Saint-Etienne, within the framework of Latvian Culture festival in France “Surprising Latvia” (“Etonante Lettonie”)

“Portrait of a flower”, exhibition in gallery Carrousell, Riga, Latvia

Solo exhibition “Firebird Seekers”, Convent yard, Riga, Latvia

Exhibition of Latvian contemporary painting, ANO house, Riga, Latvia

“Sguardo ad est” Exhibition of Baltic and Sardinian artists, Sala Delegazione Comunale and Salone Parrocchiale, Sardinia, Italy

Auction of Sotheby’s “gli amici artisti per le bambine di kalitala” in collaboration with Sabera Foundation, Milano, Italy

“Tre pittrici lettoni” Exhibitions of Latvian paintings in parallel exposition of Venice Biennale 51. Venice, Italy

* Exhibition of Latvian art in the Institute of I.Repin,

St.Petersburg, Russia

“Dreaming of something” gallery New Realms exhibition in London, UK

“L’eros degli artisti”, Smallbobcafe galleria, Lawrence, Italy

2004

Exhibition “Cameo” in Art Garden gallery, Riga, Latvia

Opening exhibition of gallery New Realms, London, UK

Exhibition of Latvian Academy of Art in the University of Art and design, Helsinki, Finland

I Fumi Cotti di Ripe San Ginesio 2004, graphic exhibition, San Ginesio, Italy

ART house gallery exhibition ‘Six Ways to Dream’ at ART ID Gallery Tunbridge Wells, UK

Exhibition “Absolute things” in Art Garden gallery, Riga, Latvia
Plein air and exhibition in Ropazi, Latvia

Group exhibition in Boheme House Gallery, London, UK

Group exhibition in “ART house” galleries, Tunbridge Wells and London, England

Latvian contemporary painting exhibition in European Commission, Brussels

“That Inside You”, exhibition in theatre of Valmiera, Latvia

2003

Group exhibition of young contemporary art in Art Academy of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

Participation in art fair “StArt”, Strasburg, Switzerland

2002

Exhibition of young contemporary art, “Autostop”, Riga, Latvia

1998

Group exhibition contemporary painting in the gallery of Latvian Artists Union, Riga, Latvia

1997

Group exhibition of contemporary painting in gallery “Vecrīga”, Riga, Latvia

1996

Plein air and exhibition of young artists dedicated to M.Shagal, Minsk, Belarus





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Gallery House specializes in broadening the audiences of our artists and we develop relationships with dealers around the world. We ensure the dealers receive and rotate inventory; shelter works at certain times; drive traffic and new clients to them. We provide collectors assurance the price is standardized, transparent and can provide them alongside our partnered dealers detailed information about each of the artists works. Further we exhibit and build collections on important works by some of the most in demand contemporary artist today as well as new contemporaries. Founded in 2008, our artists have a history of breaking public attendance record at museums and at galleries.

Annually we curate exhibitions on site by facilitating discussion among artists, writers, curators, museums and private collections showcasing our artist or an invited artist. Gallery House artists assumes an ambitious presence at the following art fairs: Art Stage Singapore, Art Toronto, Hamptons Art Market, AAF Battersea, AAF Hampstead, AAF Amsterdam, Art Amsterdam, Scope Miami, Art Fair Tokyo, AAF New York, London Art Fair and Art Miami.

History

Gallery House has garnered attention from some of the top institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Bristol Arts Museum United Kingdom and numerous partnered galleries in over 9 countries and growing.

Since 2000 the founder, Belinda Chun has been professionally involved in the Fine Arts industry, working for commercial galleries and institutions: Christopher Cutts Gallery, Lonsdale Gallery, Art Gallery of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum, McMichael Gallery, and The Power Plant.



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