

kogo

1.7.2022 - 3.9.2022

Milla Aska
Veronika Hilger
Paula Zariņa-Zēmane
Three of a Kind

Curated by Jurriaan Benschop
Kogo gallery 2022





This exhibition brings together the work of three painters who share an interest in ambivalent forms of figuration: Milla Aska, Veronika Hilger, and Paula Zarina-Zemane. Their paintings depict situations or figures that cannot be identified in one singular way but remain open to different readings. Yet in the choice of colours and the treatment of surface and paint, each of the artists develops a specific voice and unique character.

The figures in the work of **Milla Aska** (1993, based in Helsinki) appear to be behind a veil. They do not seem to be fully developed, but rather in the process of becoming visible and tangible. This impression is evoked through Aska's approach to building up a painting with thin, translucent layers of paint. "My paintings seek shape around themes such as materiality and bodily sensations – for instance, how something feels against the skin, or what warmth feels like. I am intrigued by forms that seem to be something specific but don't quite reveal themselves." Aska earned her master's degree at the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki in 2020. She has had solo exhibitions at Titanik Gallery in Turku

(Warmth on a Chair, 2019) and as part of the Aine Art Museum exhibition project "Lapin Kullamurut" in Tornio (Vene ja soutuaja, 2021), both in Finland.

The paintings of **Veronika Hilger** (1981, based in Munich) combine elements of landscape, still life, and portrait. Hilger is a specialist in ambiguous figuration. The shapes in her paintings have a familiar, often organic touch but are not specific enough to name. The artist presents them on an elementary level, stripped of detail. As a result, the forms have a dynamic appearance: a foot could be a leaf, a leaf could be an animal, an animal could be a stone. "The organic is something that you can easily dock onto as a human, and that creates a kind of identification potential," the artist notes. Hilger combines painting with small-scale sculptures. She is represented by the Sperling Gallery in Munich. An extensive monograph of her work was released in 2021 by the Verlag für Moderne Kunst.

In the works of **Paula Zarina-Zemane** (1988, based in Riga), the distinction between human and the environment is blurred. The

works oscillate between abstract compositions formed through clouds of colour, and more concrete outlines of landscapes. The human figure may appear small, or simply as a faint shape or a dot of paint rather than a clearly defined drawing. The paintings are usually the result of a fast process, and they evoke a sense of speed through traces left by the brush. Yet the reduced composition also sets a reflective mood. "I am trying to get the result in one go," the artist notes. "It's a fragile process. If something does not work out straight away, then I clean it up and start again." Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at Maksla X0 (Changes, 2021) and at Careva Contemporary (One as Another, 2018), both in Riga.

The exhibition Three of a Kind is curated by **Jurriaan Benschop**, a Dutch writer and curator based in Berlin. It is part of the exhibition series Past is the Present at the Kogo Gallery in 2022. The works of the three artists presented evade a specific sense of time and of belonging to a certain era. The artists nourish their work with the history of painting to find the point where a present-day approach to painting merges with a sense of timelessness.





Changes 5
Paula Zarina-Zemane
2021
Oil on canvas, 150x130cm
3500 €



Heliosis
Milla Aska
2022
Oil on canvas, 35×27cm
900 €



Tulip
Milla Aska
2020
Oil on canvas, 50×41cm
1000 €



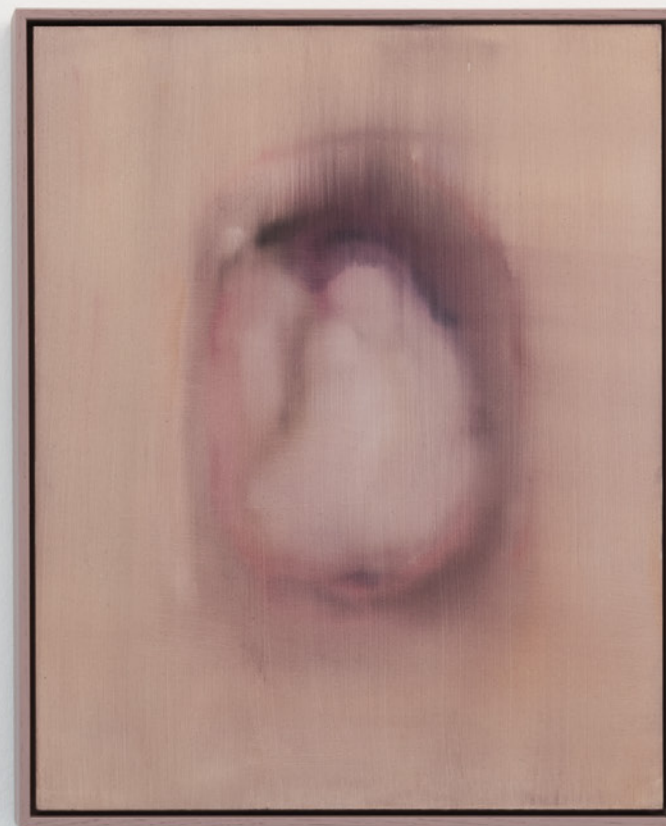
Dive
Milla Aska
2022
Oil on canvas, 140×116cm
2800 €



Untitled
Veronika Hilger
2020
Glazed ceramic, 31×22.5×11 cm
2900 €



Madonna 1
Paula Zarina-Zemane
2022
Oil on canvas, 50x40cm
2000 €



Madonna 2
Paula Zarina-Zemane
2022
Oil on plywood, 50x40cm
2000 €



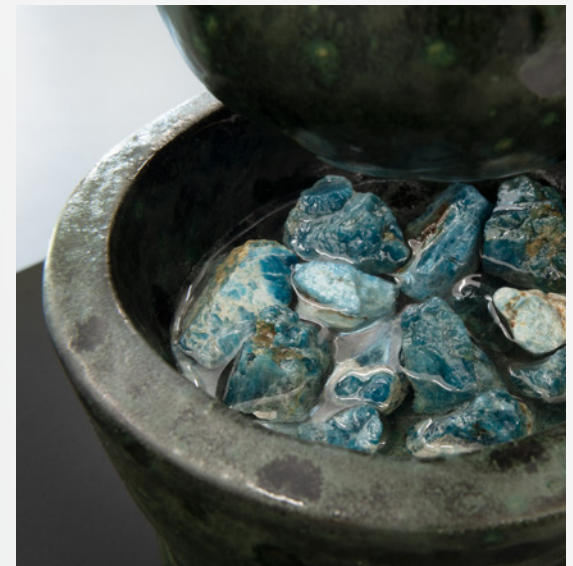
Untitled
Veronika Hilger
2016
Oil on canvas in artistsframe
150x130cm
8400 €

Changes 16
Paula Zarina-Zemane
2022
Oil on canvas, 145×110cm
3000 €



Changes 17
Paula Zarina-Zemane
2022
Oil on canvas, 60×50cm
2000 €





Untitled
Veronika Hilger
2020
Glazed ceramic, 26x42x23cm
3200 €



Spring
Milla Aska
2022
Oil on canvas, 160×150cm
3500 €



Windy
Milla Aska
2021
Oil on canvas, 27×35cm
900 €



Fall
Milla Aska
2020
Oil on canvas, 27×35cm
900 €



Untitled
Veronika Hilger
2017
Oil on canvas in artistsframe
120x100cm
6600 €



Untitled
Veronika Hilger
2018
Glazed ceramic, 23.5×20×27cm
2900 €



Untitled
 Veronika Hilger
 2020
 Oil on canvas in artistsframe
 60x45cm
 3200 €



Untitled
 Veronika Hilger
 2020
 Oil on canvas in artistsframe
 60x45cm
 3200 €



Changes 15
Paula Zarina-Zemane
2022
Oil on canvas, 150×130cm
3500 €



Changes 18
Paula Zarina-Zemane
2022
Oil on canvas, 20×30cm
900 €



Meadow
Milla Aska
2021
Oil on canvas
160×150cm
3500 €



Untitled
Veronika Hilger
2021
oil on paper on MDF in
artistsframe, 39.8×29.8cm
2300 €



Untitled
Veronika Hilger
2021
Oil on paper on MDF in
artistsframe, 39.8×29.8cm
2300 €

kogo

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Location:

The Widget Factory
(Aparaaditehas)
Kastani 42, 50410 Tartu,
Estonia

Open:

Wed-Fri, 13:00–19:00
Sat, 13:00–18:00
And by appointment

About Kogo gallery

Kogo is a contemporary art gallery that opened at The Widget Factory in Tartu, Estonia in the spring of 2018, and is aimed at improving the international visibility of artists and introducing their art practice more broadly.

The name of Kogo gallery comes from the Võru language and means “all of”, “together” or “collection”. For us, Kogo means collecting, experiencing and coming together as a community.

At the centre of Kogo’s diverse exhibition programme are artists’ solo projects and exhibitions created in collaboration with artists and curators. Kogo is committed to supporting free creative expression, interdisciplinarity, imagination and innovative ideas in art, as well as initiating and maintaining creative relationships and uniting the community of artists and art enthusiasts.

We consider it important to encourage dialogue through contemporary art in order to promote discussion on issues that are relevant in society. We have organised various events to accompany the exhibitions held at Kogo gallery, including artist talks, lectures, guided tours, screenings, concerts, book presentations and art performances, involving physicists, philosophers, environmental activists, legal experts, ethnologists, writers, musicians, performers etc.

The programme is mainly created by making direct proposals to artists and curators, but also through open calls, which allow us to find international collaborative projects and include young artists. The gallery is also open to proposals that are conceptually and technically well considered and site-specific.

