

"Untitled"

This painting strives from the idea that humans don't really understand nature or their own place inside nature. That the essence of nature is growth, never-ending expansion and proliferation. It is unstoppable and uncontrollable. Whereas we humans like to control everything, build boundaries. With this painting my aim was to create a situation where a man is in a way absorbed by nature. The man has lost control of himself, has become entangled with the proliferating grass which is all around him, he's almost drowning in it. It is not the comfortability of man-made environment. Nature has taken over the situation and has swallowed him up. It is almost as if the man has lost the sense of himself, has lost the very thing that separates him from nature – the Self, the individuality, the ego. His mind has become quiet. It is a peaceful state like a dream – the Dreamtime. The human simply disappears inside the nature, or perhaps – is taken back in. The man is vanishing.

The title of the painting is "Untitled" because it shows perfectly how the man has gone beyond his usual state of symbolic thinking, he has stepped out of "culture". It is a place where there is no more language, no more words.

Creative biography / statement

Eleriin Ello

Being an artist, I strive to see circumstances from different and new perspectives. For me art is not something that can give big visible solutions to problems. Art doesn't act so openly, but more secretly, bending the mind and touching the soul of a single person, and thus changes the society by changing the individuals in it. I think art can inspire people and change them from within – how they think and act. It can give a new view, a new perspective.

In art, above all, I value the idea behind the work. It is the most important part of the work. But also the visual part is highly important because it lets the idea "shine". I started out as a printmaker, and now I make mostly paintings. I have also made installations, animations and video works and will continue to do so in the future. I don't want to limit myself to only one technique. For different ideas different techniques should be used. I am not very fond of "dry" or purely conceptual pieces, there has to be a balance between the idea and the visual. Also, the work has to contain something extra that I would call wierdness or absurdity – it is a powerful tool.

For me human beings are the most interesting field of study. Their – our – relations with each other, with the surrounding environment and with the inner-self, with our soul. Lately I have been focusing on the relationship between man and the natural environment. It seems humans are a part of nature while also opposed to it. Nature seems something to long for but once being in nature, soon there comes the need to return to the comfort of human-made environment. There is also the nature inside man – the uncouncious mind, the irrational side of humans. It is the “wild” side of man – nature inside us, in our system, in our mind. I have the feeling that most people nowadays don't see their connection to the nature / the environment anymore. It seems that Man controls nature. The whole point of my works has been to show that this deduction is wrong. Man has tried to push nature into boundaries, but this is illusiory. I have the feeling that humans don't quite understand nature and their own place inside nature. The essence of nature remains undefinable and constanly changing.

The subject of man and nature might be a bit broad and abstract, but that is what I am interested in – how nature seems to work on a completely different level that remains undefinable for us humans.

Nature is in perpetual motion, constantly growing and changing, it's something that man can't control.