

The descriptive conception of the artwork "Unless One sees himself he will not see at all: Figure 1.6" (original title: "Ta ei näe üldse, kui ta ei näe iseennast: Kujund 1.6")

The title is inspired by Michel Foucault's beautiful reasoning in "Madness & Civilization": "[...] the world that thought to measure and justify madness through psychology must justify itself before madness [...]." (pp 274)¹

The open series (marked as unlimited number of figures) is based on the notion of **madness**. I opened it up as an introvert study of madness through painting my own personal repetitive figures, facing my thoughts and scientific-psychological studies (in addition to above- mentioned Foucault, Ronald D. Laing's "The Divided Self", Vaino Vahing's "Vaimuhaiguse müüt" and so on). I learned about **schizophrenia** as a specific form of "craziness" to see the lines between normality-craziness adding my own context. In other words, it is inevitably a study of **the truth and the relativity of the truth**. Laing has once reasoned that "schizophrenia is a healthy reaction to the crazy world" (Vahing 2005: 68). About 25 million people have been diagnosed schizophrenia in the world today², it is believed that there are even more undiagnosed schizophrenics who still manage to perform the everyday social roles.

Therefore, I believe, it is just a justified question of **the pathology of the norm**.³

Don't the schizophrenic symptoms like distorted senses (of reality), memory disorders (distortion of history), the panic of imput thoughts, the fear of being watched, distrusting, constant suspecting, etc. sound like a pessimistic short description of the world surrounding us or the way the world is often presented to us?

These figures, including the Figure 1.6 is my freed "madness" - the introspective study questioning whether one person's train of thought and vision can embody something symptomatic to this specific time and space and to us all? Is my madness my personal madness or the normalty of this world?

Sources:

Foucault, Michel 2003. *Hullus ja arutus. Hullumeelsuse ajalugu klassikalisel ajastul. Avatud Eesti Fond.* Tartu :

Ilmamaa, 773 – 803

Laing, Ronald David 1974. *The Divided Self: an existential study in sanity and madness.*

Harmondsworth : Penguin Books

Vahing, Vaino 2005. *Vaimuhaiguse müüt.* Tartu : Ilmamaa, 55– 96, 115

Terviseinfo.ee. *Ülevaade vaimse tervise probleemidest.* URL: <http://www.terviseinfo.ee/et/valdkonnad/vaimne-tervis/ulevaade-vaimse-tervise-probleemidest>

1 The longer quote that opens up the subject comes from the Estonian edition "Hullus ja arutus": "Nüüd vaadatakse hullu ühtaegu nii neutraalsemalt kui ka kaastundlikumalt. Neutraalsemalt, sest temas avastatakse inimese sügavad tõed, need uinuvad vormid, milles sünnib see, mis inimene on. Ja kaastundlikumalt, sest teda pole võimalik ära tunda, kui temas ei tunta ühtlasi ära iseennast; [...] See pilk, mis võib endale lubada vaadet inimese viimaks ometi alasti kistud tõeale [...], ei saa ka enam hoiduda vaatlemast häbitust, mis on ühtlasi tema enda häbitus. Ta ei näe üldse, kui ta ei näe iseennast." (Foucault, Michel 2003 : 773)

2 ("Ülevaade vaimse tervise probleemidest", URL: <http://www.terviseinfo.ee/et/valdkonnad/vaimne-tervis/ulevaade-vaimse-tervise-probleemidest>.)

3 Vahing, 115

ELO-MAI MIKELSAAR

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Organizations

since 2014 - Eesti Maalikunstnike Liit (Estonian Painters' Association)

since 2009 - Eesti Naisüliõpilaste Selts (Society of Estonian Women Students)

Education

2013 - 2016 University of Tartu, Faculty of Philosophy, specialty: Painting, MA cum laude 2014 - 2015

Strzemiński Academy of Art Łódź (Poland), specialties: painting and textile, MA (ERASMUS+)

2010 - 2013 University of Tartu, Faculty of Philosophy, specialty: Painting, BA

2009 - 2013 University of Tartu, Faculty of Philosophy, specialty: Semiotics, BA 1997 - 2009 Rannu

Secondary School

Solo exhibitions

2016

- "Kehakõne" at The Library of The University of Life Sciences

2013

- "Nightmare Scenario" - the exhibition of the BA and MA diploma works of the Department of Painting of the University of Tartu 2013 at Tartu Art House

Selected group exhibitions

2016

- The exhibition of the BA and MA diploma works of the Department of Painting of the University of Tartu 2016 at Tartu Art House

- 16th annual unjuried Estonian Artists' Association exhibition at Tallinn City Gallery

2015

- Tartu Artist's Annual Exhibition at Tartu Art House - "Tee" at Võru County Museum at Võru

- "ΕΓΩ" - the group exhibition of the second-year postgraduate students of Tartu University Painting Department at University of Tartu's Old Anatomical Theatre in Tartu
- "Don't Worry" - The exhibition of the summer workshop of the University of Tartu Painting Department at Kosmonautika Holiday Centre in Häädemeeste
- "Continuity and Newness" - the Annual Exhibition of the Estonian Painter's Association at The Museum of New Art in Pärnu
- XV ERASMUS Exhibition (Galeria BIAŁA ŚCIANA, Strzemiński Academy of Art Łódź, Poland)

2014

- Interdisciplinary festival "Crazy Tartu 5: Theatrical" at Promenaadiviis in Tartu
- „Kosmonautijad Kosmonautikas" - the exhibition of the summer workshop of the University of Tartu Painting Department at The Library of University of Tartu in Tartu
- Tartu Young Art Exhibition and Auction of the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries in Tartu - "Cruise Tartu" at Gallery Noorus in Tartu
- "Spring Exhibition" - 14th annual Estonian Artists' Association exhibition at Tallinn City Gallery
- "Painting Focus": Estonian contemporary painting - the annual exhibition of the Estonian Painters' Association at Pärnu Museum of New Art in Pärnu

2013

- Tartu Artist's Annual Exhibition at Tartu Art House
- "Summer in the Middle of Winter"-the exhibition of the summer workshop of the University of Tartu Painting Department at The Library of University of Tartu in Tartu
- The Young Painter Prize 2013 Finalists' exhibition at the Contemporary Art Centre in Vilnius Lithuania
- The exhibition of the BA and MA diploma works of the Department of Painting of the University of Tartu 2013 at Tartu Art House

2012

- Tartu Artist's Annual Exhibition at Tartu Art House

2011

- "BACA-BACA ehk Still life ja Nat-Morte" - the exhibition of the students of the University of Tartu Painting Department at Tartu Art House in Tartu

2010

- The exhibition of the summer workshop of the University of Tartu Painting Department at the gallery pART in Põltsamaa

Selected additional artistic works

2015

- The cover (painting) for Ustav Mikelsaar's novel "LENNUVAADE KÄÄPALE" 2015 - Series of scientific illustrations for Estonian Ornithological Society:

🔗 "Eesti Linnud" the app of bird identification guide: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ee.eoy.key.mobile.eestilinnud>

🔗 "LeiaLind" game: <http://www.eoy.ee/leialind/>

🔗 "Linduderänne" game: <http://www.eoy.ee/ranne/>

2014

- Logo design for Västriik Veterinary Pharmacy

2013

- Illustrations for the Society of Estonian Women Students' newspaper Küsimärk

2012

- Illustrations for the Society of Estonian Women Students' newspaper Küsimärk - Illustration for the free web-based fanzine Reaktor (vol 5)

2011

- Illustration for the free web-based fanzine Reaktor (vol 3)

Acknowledgements

2015 The scholarship of Susan and August Mölder (Foundation of Estonian Culture) 2013 Young Painter Prize (the competition of the Baltic young painters), 2nd prize

Bibliography

2016

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- Nurk, Kaire 2016. Millest räägivad diplomimaalid?. Sirp 8.07.2016, URL (Used in July 2016) <http://www.sirp.ee/s1-artiklid/c6-kunst/millest-raagivad-diplomimaalid/>

- Piirimäe, Krista 2016. Tartu kunst on atraktiivselt modernistlik. Postimees 4.01.2016, URL (Used in January 2016) <http://kultuur.postimees.ee/3456115/tartu-kunst-on-atraktiivselt-modernistlik> 2015

- Siimso Merivoo, Jane (koost.) 2015. Lillemaalide festival 2015 (exhibition catalogue) 2014

- Kard, Elin (koost.) 2014. EKL 14. aastanäitus. Kevadnäitus (exhibition catalogue).

2013

- Mikuckytė, Austėja 2013. Laidojama nemirusi. Pašvaistė, 2013, 6: 1 - 6, URL <http://pasvaiste.lt/files/2013-06.pdf>

- Tatrik, Katre 2013. Noore kunstniku maalitud hirmud pälvivid preemia. Tartu Postimees 10.12.2013, URL (Used in December 2013) <http://pluss.postimees.ee/2625774/noore-kunstniku-maalitud-hirmud-palvisid-preemia>.

- Sirp Online uudised 2013. Elo-Mai Mikelsaarele noorte maalija võistlusel auhind. Sirp, 4.12.2013, URL (Used in December 2013) http://www.sirp.ee/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20167:2013-12-04-17-58-56&catid=1:uudised&Itemid=4.

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- Dailidėnaitė-Petkevičienė, Julija (ed.), Dalmantaitė, Vitalija (ed.) 2013. Young Painter's Prize (exhibition catalogue) 38 - 39.

- Aibel, Liisi 2013. Maalikunsti lõpetajate hulgas staare ei ole. Universitas Tartuensis, 6.2013, 7: 20 - 21.

- Piirimäe, Krista 2013. Noor kunst laseb ennast paista mitmekülgsena. Tartu Postimees 20.06.2013, URL (Used in July 2013) <http://www.tartupostimees.ee/1277062/noor-kunst-laseb-ennast-paista-mitmekulgsena>.

- Talvistu, Peeter 2013. Üllatavast üllatuste puudumisest. Sirp 20.06.2013, 25, URL (Used in July)

http://www.sirp.ee/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18590:uellatavast-uellatuste-puudumisest&catid=6:kunst&Itemid=10.