

Portraits From The Bedroom

I work in my bedroom, which is also my studio. In the background plays disco music, and on the desktop is open an interview with Aurel Schmidt. Next to the bed, on the ground are carelessly thrown banana peels, and the brushes are soaking in pink water for the second week in a row.

It is late, and I'm browsing through photos of partygoers in New York's famous art gallery, where they are dancing and drinking champagne. I visualize of a gallery space, where the floor is covered with glitter, and golden banana peels are leading the way to the portraits of metropolitan hedonists. An emoticon, made out of bubble gums is winking at me.

Portrait of H. Morris

In my bedroom, I'm merely painting for my own pleasure. It's an intimate space and the subjects who I depict are personally appealing to me - through their work, being or how they look. I find them in magazines, movies, books or internet zines. The outcome is not photorealistic, but expressive and unexpected.

The process is fast and I use paper, which for me has the effect of a sketchbook. You can scribble on it, draw fat and quick lines. The empty white background gives the subject a neutral space and at the same time suggests of the work being unfinished. It leaves more room for the viewer, and liberates the subject from it's surroundings.

HELMI-ELFRIEDE ARRAK

b. 1988, Estonia

website: helmiarrak.com

Biography

Helmi Arrak (born 1988) received her BA in Painting from the University of Tartu and a degree in Furniture Design at the Tartu Art College.

Her studio being her bedroom dictates the outcome of the work - the scale and materials as well as the subjects depicted. To describe her method she draws parallel with the concept of a bedroom musician (see also Ariel Pink) - herself being a bedroom artist.

She portrays mostly people, celebrities in an intimate way, who grab the viewer's attention and tell their story. The creations of the artist are very sketch like and at the same time expressive. Her works are used by various publications. Personal exhibitions:

Portraits From The Bedroom, Monumentaalgalerii, Tartu (2016); Vocation/Vacation, Struktuur, Tallinn (2015); Jelly Jenny, Loov Gallery, Tartu (2014); Pieces From My Room, 008 Gallery, Tallinn (2013); Monkeys, Moms and Rockstars, Kõue estate, Estonia (2012). Helmi Arrak has received the Kau Academy Young Artist scholarship (2012).

Education

2010-2015 Tartu Art College, Furniture Design, BA

2007-2010 University of Tartu, The Institute of Cultural Research and Fine Arts,

Department of Painting, BA

2004-2007 Collegium Educationis Revaliae (CER), Department of Arts

Solo Exhibitions

2016 Portraits From The Bedroom, Monumentaalgalerii, Tartu, Estonia 2015 Bowie on Gukk, Ugala Theatre, Viljandi, Estonia

2014 Jelly Jenny, Loov galerii, Tartu, Estonia

2013 Pieces From My Room, 008 Galerii, Tallinn, Estonia

2012 Monkeys, Moms and Rockstars, Kau Manor, Estonia 2010 Pretty Portraits, Vintage Shop Fankadelik, Estonia

Group Exhibitions

2016 The Great Painter, curator Liisa Kaljula, Evald Okas Museum, Haapsalu, Estonia 2015 Vocation/ Vacation, installation with Struktuur, Kalamaja park, Tallinn, Estonia;

Lick It Up! Be Your Own Pet, installation with Eike Eplik, for exhibition Noorus kui elustiil/ Youth Mode, Tartu Art Museum, Estonia;

Sunday Funday, project with Tartu Art College, Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair

2014 5stuff, project with Tartu Art College, Heliodesain, Tallinn Design Week; 5stuff, project with Tartu Art College, Tent London;

5stuff, project with Tartu Art College, Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair; Valmis x Olek, Arhitektuuri- ja Disainigalerii, Tallinn, Estonia;

The Kids are Sane/Lapsed Mars Tupla, gallery NOORUS, Tartu, Estonia

2013 ÖÖ2/NIGHT2. Curators Liisa Kruusmägi and Liisi Küla, Rundum, artist run space, Tallinn Estonia;

ÖÖ/ NIGHT. Curators Liisa Kruusmägi and Liisi Küla, Pärnu City Gallery,

Estonia

2012 Joon, Tartu Centre for Creative Industries, Estonia

2010 Akt! Auction for Young Art of Tartu, restaurant Volga, Estonia;

University of Tartu, Department of Painting, Graduation Show, Tartu, Estonia

2009 Lima, Y Galerii, Tartu, Estonia

2005 Group Show of the graduates of Collegium Educationis Revaliae, Kultuurikatel, Tallinn, Estonia

Grants and Awards

2012 Kau Academy stipend for Young Artist, Kau Manor, Estonia

Residencies / Stays

2012 Artist in Residence Kau Academy, Kau Manor, Estonia

Illustrations for:

Müürileht, Eesti Naine, Jazzkaar, Tallinn Bicycle Week, Marten Kuningas, Indie-Disco