

Kristen Rästas

b. 1992, EE

<https://kristenrastas.tumblr.com>

Family Values: Wedding is the first painting in an ongoing series. The painting is of a marriage which led to my birth. It depicts my mother and father on their wedding day. The basis of this artwork is an old wedding photo. This painting series itself is a recollection of ritualistic happenings and everyday events that my family has experienced.

For this painting I have chosen a strict composition inspired by the sanctity of marriage even though, the couple is seen casually giving a toast to one another. I have become fascinated by these types of ritualistic behaviours that are unquestionable and obvious. They form a universal life pattern. Marriage is a promise given in front of witnesses which leads to a big life change. It is also seen as a ritual of becoming an adult. In today's Estonia the past's collective society has been largely replaced with an individual society where we are told that we can be whoever we want to be.

I am reimagining my parents doing the things they did when they were about my age. I have chosen them for this because of parental authority and our mutual blood which ties us together. By studying these old family photos I am trying to justify our differences in how we see the world. This is led by a fear of missing out due to my personal life choices and artist lifestyle.

Kristen Rästas is an Estonian artist born in 1992. Kristen has lived most of his life in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, where he also currently resides and works. He graduated Estonian Academy of Arts and obtained a bachelor's degree as a painter in 2015. During his studies he spent a exchange semester in Budapest, studying at Hungarian University of Fine Arts. Currently he is continuing his master's degree in painting at Estonian Academy of Arts. Kristen has participated in exhibitions since the year of 2012. Besides painting, Kristen also creates video works.

In his works Kristen a lot deals with how we perceive other people and different everyday narratives around us. Kristen is interested in social relationships and deceptive impressions people have the power to create. He has an introverted obsessive attachment to different symbols and color combinations which hold a storytelling value. Currently he is interested in capitalistic middle class life and the meaning of finding inner peace by living up to a social standard. The artist's style has been previously described as expressive pop.

Education

2016 - ... Estonian Academy of Arts, painting, MA

2015 Estonian Academy of Arts, painting, BA

2014 Hungarian University of Fine Arts, painting, exchange program

Solo Exhibitions

2016 Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Tallinn

2016 „As in Flesh, So in Spirit“, Musta Jala gallery, Mustjala village, Saaremaa 2016 The Living Room Cafe, Tallinn

2015 „Werewolf“, Laagna library, Tallinn

Group Exhibitions

2017 Annual exhibition of Estonian Painters' Association „RIGHT NOW!“, MONA The Museum of New Art, Pärnu

2017 TMW: Young Art Talent competition, Wabadus cafe, Tallinn

2017 TMW: Light installations „Easy Access“, Reisijate street, Tallinn

2016 „Viva Arte Viva“, ARS house, Tallinn

2016 „Mimicry“, Balti Jaam train station, Tallinn

2016 RASK Attorneys-at-Law, Tallinn

2015 TASE FILM, Sõprus cinema, Tallinn

2013 „Tuttuus“, ARS house, Tallinn

2013 „Muuttuum“, Draakon gallery, Tallinn

2013 „Muuttuum“, Pärnu Artists' House, Pärnu

2013 „Do it“, EKA Pseudo gallery, Tallinn

2012 „Pattern“, Von Krahl, Tallinn

2012 „First Cut“, Von Krahl, Tallinn

Other

Participated in Tartu Young Art Auction since 2015

Works in private collections in Estonia, Finland, Hungary and United States