

Mētra Saberova

b. 1991, LV

<https://www.metrasaberova.com/>

Taking the bodily, medical and performative contents that make up my artistic practice, I use my own orchestrated experiences of medical tourism procedures as a public platform to encourage discussion about the cultural, political and social meanings assigned to the female body and its capabilities. Nearly two years ago at the age of 24 I underwent tubal ligation operation, which is permanent sterilisation for women, in Bangkok, Thailand. In continuation of that, I underwent hymenoplasty-the surgical reconstruction of the hymen- in 2016 in Poland and continued to present it as a performative act. On February and March 2017 I travelled to Bulgaria to undergo consultations for IVF (in vitro fertilization) to perform mother-drag via bio-camp. Through this medical tourism I question the sanctity of the sacred image of the woman as a mother which is depicted in the painting in a nice and approachable comical manner.

Education

- 2015-2017 MA Fine Art, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, London, UK
- 2011-2015 BA, Painting Department at the Art Academy of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
- 2010-2011 University of Latvia, Faculty of History and Philosophy, Department of Philosophy

Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 To get away? Daugavpils, ALEhouse, Riga, Latvia
- Aside, gallery "Ledus pagrabs", Valmiera, Latvia

Select Group Exhibitions and Screenings

Upcoming: Jeune Creation Europeenne touring group exhibition in France, Italy, Denmark, Rumania, Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Latvia, Poland in 2018/2019.

Solo exhibition in Tartu Kunstimaaja, in Tartu, Estonia, 16.11.-10.12.2017.

- 2017 I'm Not Confused, I'm Contemporary, Lubimorov/Angus-Hughes, London, UK
- International Videoart Week of Lanzarote, CIC El Almacen, Lanzarote, Canary islands
- Fembloks, photography book and performance show in collaboration with Ingrīda Pičukāne, Rasa Jansone and Vivianna Maria Stanislavska, Latvian Centre for Contemporary art, Riga, Latvia
- 2016 Hiding in Plain Sight, The Flying Dutchman, London, UK
- Visions in the Nunnery, Bow arts, London, UK
- Is this (not) a woman, Tad gallery, Texas, USA
- RETHink Art Digital Festival, Crete, Greece
- Amy Johnson Festival, The 75 Seconds Film Challenge, Hull, UK
- Big Screen, Latitude Festival, UK
- SIXTY, Lubomirov/Angus-Hughes gallery, London, UK/ Platform Projects @ Art Athina, Athens
- Tension. The Young in Latvian Painting III, Exhibition hall of the Latvian National Museum of Art "Arsenāls", Riga, Latvia
- PANORAMA #1, Genesis cinema, London, UK
- 2015 Gustavs Metzger's call to Remember Nature, Central Saint Martins in collaboration with the Serpentine Galleries, London

Signifier, degree show of the Art Academy of Latvia, Tabacco factory, Riga, Latvia

- 2014 What is happening there in Riga?, exhibition of the LAA Painting Department, gallery Noorus, Tartu, Estonia
- Video installation Red river pearls, Culture forum White Nights, Riga 2014, Riga, Latvia

Participation in Workshops and Residencies

- 2016 London Graduate School Summer Academy "Derrida and Gender", London
- 2015 International LCCA Summer School "This is Tomorrow!", Cesis, Latvia
- 2014 Konstanze Schmidt workshop "What about Milda today?", Survival Kit 6, Riga, Latvia
- International Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art (LCCA) Summer School "What do contemporary images tell?", Cesis, Latvia

Awards

- Selected artist for Latvia's participation in Jeune Creation Europeenne 2018/2019
- Longlist for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2017
- Mona Hatoum Bursary 2015/16