

Sandra Strēle

b. 1991, LV

sandrastrele.tumblr.com

"Melancholy" is a painting from a largescale installation "Melancholy" which unobtrusively reflects the ongoing social political processes in the world, giving the swimming pool as a dominant element of the installation a metaphoric meaning. It reflects the uncertainty of future, highlighting the thirst for progress, as well as the tragic its impossibility and stagnation.

Fragments from the artist book "MELANCHOLY":

ONCE A WEEK MY SCHOOL ORGANIZED OBLIGATORY SWIMMING CLASSES. I GRADUATED FROM SCHOOL SEVERAL YEARS AGO.
SHORTLY AFTER MY GRADUATION THE SCHOOL GOT CLOSED.
AND NOONE WENT TO THE POOL.

THE POOL WAS PLANNED TO BE PULLED DOWN. TO BUILD A NEW SCHOOL.

IN SUMMER OUR POOL GOT FULL OF BLUE-GREEN ALGAE. SO WE STOPPED SWIMMING THERE.
WE WERE WAITING FOR THEM TO DISAPPEAR.
BUT THEY DID NOT.

THE POOL WAS BUILT A LONG TIME AGO.
NOONE USED IT.
POOL LACKED TREATMENT FACILITIES.
WE STARTED TO USE IT AS A WASTE REPOSITORY.
NO ONE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SWIM IN THE POOL.
WHEN THERE WAS NO WASTE WATER THE POOL STOOD EMPTY. PLANTS WERE GROWING BETWEEN THE TILES.

WAITING FOR THE NEXT RAIN SEASON.

CREATIVE BIOGRAPHY

Education.

2017 Art Academy of Latvia, Faculty of History and Theory of Arts, MA 2nd year

2016 Art Academy of Latvia, Painting department, MA **2014** Art Academy of Latvia, Painting department, BA

2013/2014 Royal Art Academy of Antwerp **Prizes and awards.**

2016 SEB scholarship in painting

2014 „Brederlo von Sengbusch“ Art Prize **2012** Inara Tetereva scholarship in Arts **Solo exhibitions.**

2017 Solo exhibition “MELANCHOLY”, Radisson Blu Elizabete Hotel, Riga, Latvia

2016 Solo exhibition “COLLECTING”, Kalnciema Quarter gallery, Riga, Latvia **2014** Solo exhibition „PLACE 57/24“, gallery „Happy Art Museum“, Riga, Latvia

Solo exhibition- largescale installation „IN THE FOREST IV“, Vecmilgravis, Riga, Latvia

Solo exhibition- largescale installation „IN THE FOREST III“, gallery „Ziema“, Riga, Latvia

2013 Solo exhibition- largescale installation „IN THE FOREST II“, abandoned Egypt’s Lutheran church, territory of Latvia

2012 Solo exhibition- largescale installation „IN THE FOREST I“, abandoned old Cotton fabric, Riga, Latvia

Solo exhibition „Notes“, „Gallery L“, Riga, Latvia

Group exhibitions.

2017 Exhibition “Netveramā robeža”, Art festival of Cesis, Cesis, Latvia

Exhibition “Bikini zona”, Jurmala City museum, Jurmala, Latvia

Exhibition “Non existent sound”, Culture hall of Carnikava, Carnikava, Latvia

Exhibition “Non existent sound”, Art Academy of Latvia, Riga, Latvia **2016** Exhibition “BBX”, Liepajas Latviešu biedrības nams, Liepaja, Latvia

Exhibition “Tension. The Young in Latvian painting III”, Latvian National Museum of Art, exhibition hall Arsenals, Riga, Latvia

2015 Contemporary art festival “Survival K(n)it 7”, Centre for contemporary art of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

2014 Exhibition „Lynoja“, gallery „Akademija“, Vilnius, Lithuania

Exhibition „What happens there in Riga?“, gallery „NOORUS“, Tartu, Estonia Exhibition „Frag. 1.,2.,3.“, Press house, Riga, Latvia

2013 Exhibition „LAIKABIEDRI“ Vitebsk, Belarus
Exhibition „Chemin de fer“ Art Academy of Warsaw, Poland
Exhibition „Location and dislocation“ Kaņepes Culture Centre, Riga, Latvia

2012 Exhibition „Matter of time“ Regional Museum of Gulbene, Latvia Exhibition „Warning“, „Gallery L“, Riga, Latvia

Other activities.

2017 Participation in KUNO organized workshop “Building up a phantasmagorical memory“, Aarhus, Denmark

2015 Participation in the international visual arts residency at Glo’art art center, Lanaken, Belgium

Participation in t h e international art residency “Mark Rothko 2015“, Daugavpils Mark Rothko center, Daugavpils, Latvia

2014 International workshop „Make your own press“, organized by KUNO, Bergen, Norway and Tallinn, Estonia

2013 International residency “The wall of Europe“, Sardinia, Italy International workshop “Illegal aesthetics“, Tallinn, Estonia