

Anna Kõuhkna / EE

* www.annakouhkna.com

The painting mostly marks the end of a long cycle and the beginning of the next. The girl in the painting is saying goodbye to the mountains she had to climb for a long period and at the same time she is thankful for the lessons and the growth, which lead to the new level of consciousness. The blooming flowers are a celebration and almost like a graduation present. Her being naked can mark the authenticity and the vulnerable state she is for all that the journey has contained. The mountains are also very often referred to something that is on the surface and the water (the sea) represents all the aspects that are still unknown, in the subconscious. Maybe she, the character on the painting, does not even notice yet, that she is already standing on the starting point on new mountains.

In a way, all of my works are self-portraits and then also universally interpretable. They are planned to be both. The paintings are the translation of one's own experience into creation, like diary entries. It can also be said that they are both present and timeless, each scene deals with a separate feeling. The general mood of the painting is about the emergence of light that takes place after abandoning one's time-lived beliefs or temples. Both woman and nature give strength and deserve to be celebrated.

Creative biography

Hello, i'm Anna. I work as a freelance artist (painter and photographer) and i live in Tallinn. I also have been teaching art for primary school and giving art courses for high school students for three years. I graduated with a BA from the Art Department of the Baltic Film and Media School, studied leather art at Tartu Art College and i am currently pursuing a master's degree in the joint art education program of Estonian Art Academy and Tallinn University. I have had several solo exhibitions (eg "Reflections" at the Fahle Gallery 2019; "Hovering in Her Own Land" at the Gallery Positiiv 2019) as well as group exhibitions (eg "Triologue" in the Kastellaanimaja Gallery 2019 with artists Sandra Sirp and Anu Muiste) so far. My first personal exhibition was in the year 2016 in Tallinn University and it was a photographic series called "HAZE". A while ago i also did different book illustrations, company logos and photographed for various projects. Right now i am preparing for an solo exhibition, which will be opened in August 27th in Solaris Gallery, Tallinn. Now i mostly focus only on painting and photography and illustration have become second in line. I have never had any exhibitions or works presented outside of Estonia or Tallinn, for that matter.

My work and paintings usually depict nature and the female figure, and the themes that i explore deal with femininity and being a woman, the inner attitudes, longings, joys and manifestations that embrace it. In the case of a female figure, it is intentional that the character is partly both a self-portrait of the artist and, by its very nature, universal and more widely interpretable. The main character in my paintings interprets societal expectations and prospects and compares them with internal recognitions. Self-contradictions can lead to an understanding of individual truth or internal code.

Symbolism is also a very big part of my creations. I research the meanings of different plants and animals and some objects are more universally understandable. For example there is a painting of mine of a girl holding the globe in her arms gracefully, or there is a painting of a woman sitting on a lighthouse which can be a symbol for hope and faith. The colors i use are also important, like a woman on painting wearing a black dress and sitting under a blossoming tree is a woman wearing really a grieving dress and letting go of the old and embracing the new beginnings.

I also believe that every artist or creator of any kind holds a huge responsibility for what they share to the world and to themselves. Meaning that we can create art that rises the vibrations of peace, humanity and love. That belief is the foundation for all of my creations and artwork.