

YOUNG PAINTER PRIZE 2021

*Arnolds Andersons / LV*

[www.arnoldsandersons.com](http://www.arnoldsandersons.com)

“Raindrop Prelude“ from “Alone“ series

Painting “Raindrop Prelude” portrays a pianist on stage in his pure, nude form, deeply desiring to merge with the instrument, to become the music itself. It is a representation of performative act, inspired by Frederic Chopin’s “Raindrop Prelude”, titled by George Sand, Chopin’s lover, while the two were staying in a solitary, isolated monastery on an island near the coast of Spain. According to a legend, their reclusive retreat was perpetually encircled by gusts of wind and rain – the rain that Chopin made his own and turned into music, melting one into the other.

Painting professionally puts one in a vulnerable position of seclusion, of being with oneself for vast amount of time. One quickly learns - solitude is a part of human nature and our state of mind. If we distance ourselves from it, or treat it as something that can be controlled, tamed and shaped by us, it ceases to be an enemy; it becomes inseparable and dear partner for life.

Everyone has his or her own experiences with aloneness. Mine started with the loss of a father figure, feeding into clichéd “daddy issues” that still haunt me today, as I am soothing my post-covid-19 breakup with fast love, ending up with collectable tokens of ex-lovers. The same as the continuous relationship between the artist and her/his unfinished painting and its fleeting completeness, I wanted to fill in all the empty gaps, to make life complete once more, but only ephemerally. Motivated by Elmgreen & Dragset exhibition “The Collectors” representing Nordic countries at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale in 2009, I am channeling these fresh experiences of loneliness into my new series of “Alone” paintings, that continue the language of brutal reality of our mortal existence, addressing the dialogue between our inner and outer states, and between idealism and existentialism.

## **BIO**

Arnolds Andersons was born in Riga, Latvia, the year when independence of Latvia was finally restored from USSR. He now lives and works in London, England. He graduated with Bachelors of Arts with Honors from Kingston University in 2014 and has been exhibited in galleries nationally and internationally. He won Special Prize of the Young Painter Prize of Baltic States in 2019. Most recently, his work was featured in an exhibition at Christie's auction house, London. Andersons works are in the collection of the Lewben Art Foundation.

As a young gay man in post-soviet society he felt rejection and betrayal. The ability to paint was his only escapism and compass for survival. His paintings are mostly figurative scenes that have a glimpse of the brutal reality of our mortal existence. Painting subjects that reflect a modern decadent lifestyle where the underlying reality differs to the surface. He chooses to depict a sense of grace paired with decay, either within subject's expression or silhouette. His digital collage like approach in paintings shows his ability to combine an anonymous figure, unknown silhouette, which appears to be part of and yet alien to their surroundings, offering loneliness and tranquility in a self-sufficient way with distinct sharp architectonic lines and flat colored surfaces that shape his scrupulous style. There is a continuous search of the hidden in the story.

## **Education**

2011 – 2014 BA (hons) Product & Furniture Design, Kingston University, UK 2007 – 2011 Riga Design and Art School, Riga, Latvia

### **Solo exhibitions**

2020 Sep "Stranger", D84, Riga, Latvia  
2019 Sep "Present", Oscar Isberian, Chicago, USA  
2018 Nov "Disappear Here", Menier Gallery, London, UK  
2018 Apr "Perspective on the human condition", Menier Gallery, London, UK

### **Group exhibitions**

2019 Nov "XI YPP", Vilnius, Lithuania  
2018 Nov "Contemporary Visions 2019", Beers Gallery, London, UK 2018 Nov "X Young Painter Prize", Vilnius, Lithuania  
2014 Jun "Graduation Show", Business Design Center, London, UK 2011 Jun "Telpa", Graduation show, Riga Design and Art School, Latvia

### **Awards / Scholarships / Prizes**

2019 Shortlisted 2020 Summer Marathon at Beers Gallery, London, UK 2019 Special Mention Prize, XI Young Painter Prize, Vilnius, Lithuania

## **Collections**

Lewben Art Foundation