

YOUNG PAINTER PRIZE 2021

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### ALL MY POEMS ARE DOORS

This work was a part of my solo exhibition '*May Home Stay Within You*' at *Galeria Pada*, Portugal in 2020. The work consists of burnt plywood panels (180 x 180 cm).

In my artistic practise I am using plywood and self-discovered burning technique using matches, pyrography tools and gas burners. I see a poetic contradiction between fire and wood: a symbolic collision of death and life, an enchanted alchemy, *contemporary vanitas*. This has become my own way of painting using a flame instead of brushes. I often leave spaces of plywood unfilled, 'breathing' through as a reminder of how valuable and unique the texture of wood itself is and how it carries the painterly memory of the natural landscape.

The work 'All My Poems are Doors' serves as a free-standing wall. As the piece is not hanged and it is possible to walk all around it, the question of a painting as an object, as a part of a house is actualized. At what point can a work become an obstacle in the way? Where is the border line between the internal and external world? Organic-looking lines are depicted on this strange 'wall' as if those were some plants growing from the ground and eternally reaching towards the imaginary ceiling. The smallest branches are in fact written sentences – lines of self-composed poems. These poems too grow in-between tearing down the borders between such notions as 'line', 'plant', 'painting', 'text' and after all – 'human' and 'nature'.

Through this work I am willing to reflect on the liminal space and the principles of new materialism stating that the nature-culture dualism can no longer serve as a cornerstone. This is a composition of a lively, changing matter where language, outside world and the inner self are all complementing each together. Just as interdisciplinarity is redefining and mutating the so-called classical principles of painting.

## CREATIVE BIOGRAPHY

I am an emerging artist from Latvia and this year I have graduated from Art Academy of Latvia, painting department, obtaining a master's degree (having previously acquired a bachelor's degree in the same department). I have greatly explored paint as a medium therefore my current practice combines painting with performance, photography, writing and self-developed burning technique.

I have had 4 solo shows in Latvia and several performances. I have participated in more than 30 group shows, for instance, *Academia* at the exhibition hall *Arsenāls* in Riga in 2019. I have received a scholarship of the famous Latvian painter Valdemars Tone.

In 2018 I took place in an ERASMUS+ exchange program to study at Accademia di Belle Arte di Venezia in Venice for 6 months learning from highly renowned painting professors – my works were included in the private collection of the academy. Meanwhile the studies I was assisting at Latvian Pavilion in *Venice Biennale 2018* in Venice.

From January till August 2020, I have been living in Lisbon, Portugal having accomplished an internship at a contemporary art gallery *No-No*. Afterwards I had been a resident at artist residency *PADA* in Barreiro, Portugal for a month, there I had the chance to exhibit my works in a solo exhibition *MAY HOME STAY WITHIN YOU* at *Galeria Pada*. In October 2020 I participated in an art fair *REA! Independent Emerging Artist Fair* in Milan, Italy.

2021 has been an already productive year accomplishing an artist residency at *AZAN Space* in Lisbon. In May I opened a new cultural space in Riga (*Alberta iela 12*) in a collaboration with artist Linda Vilka starting with our first exhibition *Riga's Highest Gallery*.

This promises to be a dynamic year as in July I am moving to Lisbon to be assisting *InFems Art Collective* and accomplishing a residency at *OSSO* residency space.