

YOUNG PAINTER PRIZE 2021

Egor Buimister / LV

buimister.art

This work, whose title is derived from the last word's of Flannery O'Connor's novel 'The Violent Bear It Away', is my attempt to show a dream-like forest landscape, where vibrant floral life intertwines with death and night. I was painting it in the darkest months of the year, throughout the autumn-winter of 2020-2021 - confined to home due to Latvian lockdown and increasingly bad weather. Here you can see how I perceived the environment around me at the time: a space of mystery, anxious discoveries and unclear visions. After four years in London, I was mesmerised by the visions of vast woods that uncovered before me. Tall pines, moss and mushrooms, the grass hiding snakes and insects, rotten trunks on deserted trails — I was seeing it with the eyes of an outsider, a freshly disembarked young man returning to his now alien home.

Beneath the eldritch spirit, the woods hide their sacramental, religious beauty. Children of God lie sleeping in cities, in the comfort of their homes, shielded from cold nights by walls and roofs, while nature is reclaiming the space around the houses, quietly calling men to merge with itself.

The painting creates an almost psychedelic visuality of the scene: everything shimmers, glows, every creature casts a deep shadow that becomes a being of its own. Despite this, the work is highly observational, born out of daily studies of the woods near my house. It is not rare to find a bone or skull there if one know's where to look.

The night is a quiet time, and the painting urges those looking at it to remain quiet as well as if you really got lost in the woods and stumbled upon this almost sacramental mise-en- scene. Or was it a feverish dream?

A harrow weeds the field, not caring for the toads underneath. The harrow of time weeds

the field of history, not caring for those broken down or corrupted underneath. The artist, however, does care — I do care, and throwing away black earth, the instruments of my work: brush, paint and canvas, shed light on the scenes and scenes long gone. Whether they depicted people once living or featured characters of paintings once hung in museums, those scenes transform and come back, though changed, their emanations reflected upon the retina of my eyes.

Piece by piece, I paint the worlds which I detest or admire, their outlines and shadows create a peculiar new look in which my own image protrudes — and every moment I digs deeper into the unknown, striving to enter those chthonic realms of the memory and time in which, staggering from haunting recognition, it will discover its last model's face.

Egor Buimister (Riga, Latvia) is a contemporary Latvian artist working predominantly in painting and drawing techniques.

Egor got his BA (Hons) Painting degree from Camberwell College of Arts, afterwards he also studied MFA Fine Art at Goldsmiths and MA Art & Cultural Management at King's College London.

Egor has participated in exhibitions in the United Kingdom, Latvia and Lithuania, his latest solo show *Some Ghost Stories* being held at Aminori Gallery in Riga, Latvia in 2020. His works are in private collections in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. In 2019, his painting *The Violent Bear It Away* was included in Lewben Art Foundation collection.