

## XIV YOUNG PAINTER PRIZE

**Egor Buimister / LV**

<https://www.buimister.art/>

“In the Heart of the Heart of the Country” is a large portrait painting of a blood-covered fox walking in the flower field. There is a certain distinction between the three layers in the painting: the decorative, bright and vibrantly playful flower field in the foreground, a realistically painted fox in the middle and mystical background of intertwined branches that could also be interpreted as a macro-depiction of human skin and veins.

Like most of my paintings, this one is greatly inspired by literature. The title of the painting is derived from the short story ( and the collection of short stories of the same name) of American writer William Gass. According to literary critic Joanna Scott, Gass’ “In the Heart of the Heart of the Country” reaches across two great expanses: the harsh, flat exterior landscape of the Midwest, and the mysterious interior landscape of human consciousness. And “both landscapes hide secrets”, she adds.

The painting depicts an equal enigma: the secret hidden in a seemingly routine scene of an animal walking in the field, and the secret of emotions and stories behind that imagery. The painting is intended to transmit tension — it hides in the carefree landscape of joyful flowers and rich tones of the foxes fur, its concise and considerate movement, in the illusive thicket behind the animal.

Is it really blood on its face or just a reflection of some distant light, some heavenly fire?

From where does it go, is it hunting, searching for its prey or has the hunt been successful and what we witness is the peaceful aftermath?

The wild nature keeps secrets of metaphysical nature, its titanic clashes we have forgotten, the arrogant city dwellers. The painting tries to catch a glimpse of the heart of the heartland, the burning hearth abandoned by contemporary men in the era of Anthropocene and the growing chaos of climate change.

Visually, the painting recalls the coyote of Joseph Beuys and many animals of Duhrer, the studies of both spirit and form of the wild. Content-wise, besides Gass, there is also a strong influence from American poet Robinson Jeffers, who wrote extensively on the transcendent, powerful and eerie nature. In this work, I continue to develop my interest in contrasting decorative and representational art, Eastern and Western, and classic and contemporary motives and approaches. It is a result of long months of quarantine, spent in my house in the forest, walking the same trails in the fall, winter, spring and early summer, noticing its sudden changes and growing restlessness.

*Egor Buimister*

Egor Buimister is a contemporary Latvian artist mainly working in painting and drawing techniques. Egor's visual art practice, which is heavily influenced by literature, is based on the concepts of nature, memory, religion and mysticism. His art focuses on the themes of transgression, sacred imagery and memory. It studies emanations, silhouettes and shadows of the scenes that do not fully belong to the world that is given to us in perception. Egor's work depicts the scenes of an individual's encounter with the unknown, be it in familiar or unfamiliar objects, scenes or circumstances. His artistic manner combines a strong academic foundation with a contemporary influence and the compositional approaches of traditional art, especially that of Japan.

Egor has studied in Camberwell College of Arts, Goldsmiths and King's College London. His works were exhibited in multiple solo and group shows, such as "Some Ghost Stories" (Riga, 2020), "Young Contemporaries" (London, 2019), and XI Young Painter Prize Finalists Exhibition (Vilnius, 2019). Egor's art is included in private collections in the United States, the United Kingdom, Latvia, Sweden and Russia, as well as in the collection of Lewben Art Foundation in Lithuania.

## **Selected Exhibitions**

### **2022**

- An Encounter (Riga, Latvia) [Solo]

### **2021**

- Exhibition 1.1 (Riga, Latvia) [Group]
- Group Show at Shrine NYC (Virtual) **2020**
- Some Ghost Stories (Riga, Latvia) [Solo] • Con-Non-Con (Riga, Latvia) [Group] **2019**

- Young Contemporaries (London, United Kingdom) [Group]
- Timespace Discovery (Riga, Latvia) [Group]
- Orbit UK Graduates Show (London, United Kingdom) [Group] • P2 (London, United Kingdom) [Group]

### **2018**

- New Camberwell Art (London, United Kingdom) [Group]
- AAF Hampstead (London, United Kingdom) [Group]
- Over Capacity (London, United Kingdom) [Group]

### **2017**

- Siltais Zimulis (Riga, Latvia) [Group]

### **2015**

- Riga Art Fair (Riga, Latvia) [Solo]

### **2014**

- Alef (Riga, Latvia) [Solo]

## **Education**

- 2020 – 2021 — MA Arts & Cultural Management, King's College London (London, United Kingdom)
- 2019 – 2020 — MFA Fine Art, Goldsmiths College (London, United Kingdom)
- 2016 – 2019 — BA (Hons) Painting, Camberwell College of Arts (London, United Kingdom)