

A Microbe's Dearest Memory

There are many types of landscapes on which no human has ever set foot. Not because they are too far away, on the contrary, the obstacle is their extreme closeness. These are landscapes below the border of skin—the worlds of microbes and bacteria, complex systems that live, work, reproduce and communicate with each other. These events that take place there have a direct effect on our well-being as well as on our whole persona. Conscious awareness of the existence of this strangest, yet nearest layer of nature should be constantly practiced.

Other non-walkable places are those born in our minds with the help of the inhabitants of the aforementioned landscapes—the nerve cells. When imagining something, the image pops into our consciousness through them. So when someone thinks of cells, it could almost be said that cells tell the person about themselves.

## Creative Bio

Solveig Lill received a bachelor's degree in painting from the University of Tartu and a master's degree in contemporary art from the Estonian Academy of Arts (2020). She has also studied as an exchange student at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK). rough various visual media, Lill speaks of the micro-world as a level of life that is physically inaccessible to humans, full of complexities which can only be imagined. She has participated in several exhibitions in Tallinn, Tartu, Vilnius and Berlin. Her rst solo exhibition "In the Closest Distances" took place in 2019 in Tallinn, at the gallery Vent Space. In early 2022 she had her second solo show, "A Microbe's Dearest Memory", at Tartu Art House.

### Artist's Statement

I engage in my work with the subject of microbiology. rough various media such as pencil drawing, watercolor and oil painting, I have been interpreting the processes that take place at the cellular level of life. With my works I propose an imaginary picture of what is happening on this scale, imitating the complexity and richness of the building blocks of our existence.

Looking at cells and tissues, we are taking a glimpse of another dimension. is territory is situated imperceptibly far from our common reality, or maybe it would be more precise to say it lies beneath it. However, it is a real world within us.

We can only imagine the landscapes and worlds we are made out of, the events and processes there, the collisions and the intertwining of its residents. In these places lie the beginnings of all our needs and desires, reactions and decisions, then again these connections are hidden from our view. In the events that take place there we can only intervene indirectly.

I have sometimes felt that by bringing these "cells and tissues" to existence through my works, I imitate the formation of organic life. I am the author, but at the same time a spectator of how they are born and grow under my brush, how they come into contact with each other and develop into something further. It's interesting to observe and at the same time to steer this process. My attention, when painting, fluctuates between leading the event and observing it happen.

With my works I try to offer the viewer some awareness of the existence of this most strange but yet the closest and most intimate layer of nature. Although this level remains hidden from us on a daily basis, it is the course of events that takes place there that has a direct impact on our well-being as well as on our whole personality.

## Education

2017–2020 Estonian Academy of Arts, contemporary art, master studies

2018–2019 Berlin University of the Arts, exchange year, class of prof. Mark Lammert 2013–2016 Tartu University, painting, bachelor studies, cum laude

## Solo exhibitions

2022 A Microbe's Dearest Memory, Tartu Art House

2019 Lähimates kaugustes / In the Nearest Distances, Vent Space, Tallinn

## Group exhibitions

2021 From Head to Toe, Tallinn Art Hall, curated by Siim Preiman

2020 Spring Exhibition, Tallinn Art Hall

2019 Rundgang, Berlin University of the Arts

2018 X Young Painter Prize, curated by Julija Dailidėnaitė and Vilmantas Marcinkevičius, Tsek Gallery, Vilnius

2018 Mindmapping, curated by Merike Estna and Kristi Kongi, Vaal Gallery, Tallinn

2018 Juubelikevad, Tallinna Art Hall

2018 System and Error, curated by Francisco Martinez, EKKM, Tallinn

2017 Artbaza, curated by Jaan Toomik, Astangu ammunition depot

2017 Tests, curated by Margot Kask, Draakoni Gallery, Tallinn

2016 Tartu University graduation show, Tartu Art Hall

2016 e Changing and the Unchangeable, curated by Jaan Elken, Pärnu Museum of New Art

2015 Annual Exhibition of Artists in Tartu, Tartu Art Hall

2015 Between Tensions, Y Gallery, Tartu

2014 Annual Exhibition of Artists in Tartu, Tartu Art Hall

2014 AASTAARUANNE, Mäsu Gallery, Tallinn

2013 CONVIVENCIA, Aatrium Gallery, Tallinn

## Works in collections

Works in private collections in Estonia, Finland, Germany, United Kingdom, United States