

Ēriks Apaļais

Ģimene | FAMILY

With special guests:

Marcel Broodthaers , Ingmar Bergman,
Vija Celmiņš, Andrei Tarkovsky, Orson Welles

7.02. - 31.05. 2020.

Organized by GALERIJA ALMA in collaboration with Latvian National Museum of Art

Curated by Katerina Gregos

GALERIJA ALMA in collaboration with The Latvian National Museum of Art is pleased to announce the solo show of Ēriks Apaļais titled FAMILY. The exhibition will be a survey of the artist's works to date and will be split up into five distinct chapters. The first part, or Prelude, will present his little-seen early paintings created in the latter part of the 2000s. A new series of work will be presented, Tukums-Tomsk (2019-20) which digs further into the past, and into both family and collective history. The paintings refer to the infamous deportations by t of Latvians to Siberia by the Soviet occupiers during the Second World War, of which the artist's grandmother was also a victim. As this memory retreats further into the past, Apaļais attempts to rescue it, whilst at the same time acknowledging it is beyond his grasp. These paintings therefore occupy a hazy space in between memory and and the difficulty underlying its reconstruction, history and myth making, reality and imagination. Apaļais attempts to rescue it, whilst at the same time acknowledging it is beyond his grasp. These paintings therefore occupy a hazy space in between memory and and the difficulty underlying its reconstruction, history and myth making, reality and imagination.

With this body of work, on view for the first time all together – Apaļais demonstrates the subtle manner in which he navigates the slippery territory of memory and the past. One could say that he manages to achieve the painterly equivalent of what Leo Strauss has called “esoteric writing” in reference to the written word, that is, an oblique manner of communication which eschews both linear narrative and literal description. The exhibition will conclude with a dreamy, immersive colour-saturated environment which will include both a video and painting installation that brings the exhibition full-circle. It will also include a series of footnotes, or reference points, that have been seminal for the artist's practice, including film excerpts by Andrej Tarkovsky, Orson Welles, and Ingmar Bergman.

The exhibition is curated by Katerina Gregos, who curated the highly successful edition of the 1 st Riga Biennial, in which Ēriks Apaļais' work was included.

The exhibition is organized by GALERIJA ALMA, who has represented Ēriks Apaļais for more than a decade.

Project director:

Astrīda Riņķe

Exhibition design:

Rihards Funts, Reinis Ducmanis

Visual identity and scenography of Prelude (first part of the exhibition) :

Golf Clayderman

Technical execution of the exhibition design:

Melis Grupa

Museum exhibition co-ordinator :

Anna Pūtele

Assistant :

Kristians Fukss

Special thanks :

Marie Puck Broodthaers, Dana Gritāne,

Ēriks Kazāks, Andris Kreislers, Andris Kļaviņš,

Jānis Klaučs, Andris Landaus, Neringa Mocuļskiene,

Andrejs Ratkēvičs, Silvija Roziņa

ARTIST'S SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ēriks Apaļais was born in Riga in 1981. He studied Fine Art at the Hamburg University of Fine Arts under Prof. Andreas Slominski. Currently he is studying English Philology at the University of Latvia, Riga.

Selected solo exhibitions include: Institutional Gambling, ALMA Gallery, Riga (2017); Dialogue, ALMA Gallery, Artissima, Torino (2016); Le Cygne, ALMA Gallery, Riga (2016); Twigs, Latvia National Museum of Art, The Arsenāls Exhibition Hall, Riga (2014); Inscribed Silhouettes, Gallery Vera Munro, Hamburg (2014); Words, kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga (2014); New Positions, Art Cologne, Cologne (2012); Confessions, Gallery Vera Munro, Hamburg (2011).

Selected group exhibitions include: Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More, 1st Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (2018); Dedication, Exploitation & Haute Collaboration, Silberkuppe Gallery, Berlin (2017); Le Fragole Del Baltico, Careof, Milan (2015); The Forgotten Pioneer Movement, District Berlin, Berlin (2014); 15th Vilnius Painting Triennial, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius (2013); Inside and Out, kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga (2012); The Naughty Ones, Latvia National Museum of Art, Riga (2012); Is it that he does not seek the truth, but does want to influence?, Riga Art Space (2012); Index, Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg (2009)

Awards:

2011 Karl H. Ditze Award for the best Diploma, University of Fine Arts of Hamburg

2008 DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) Award for outstanding achievements