

HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR:

TURPENTINE CONCLUSIONS

Exhibition 20/04/2023 – 20/05/2023

Opening Thursday 27 April 17.00 – 20.00

ISSUES is delighted to present Hampus' second solo exhibition at the gallery but this time, as Hampus Balanzo Wernemyr, his full name. Visitors are presented with a new group of paintings in his now familiar show style. The pictures have no apparent connection to one another apart from a few that show striped figures, holding hands or copulating. They are striped in the way that their glossy and seemingly glazed skin has stripes circumferring their limbs. Other pictures show a completely blue painting of a strange candle holder or the word *Vibrato* written in sand. However, Balanzo is a state of being rather than a name and it is in this state of being that the pictures appear to Hampus. Neither is Balanzo an alter ego, it is a place for balancing things, pulling off a painting. Introducing Balanzo to an audience is an invitation to a sort of cerebral viewing room where each of Hampus' pictures is allowed to tell its own story.

HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR b. 1982 in Stenungsund, lives and works in Stockholm. Hampus is a graduate from the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm.

Turpentine Conclusions is his second solo exhibition at ISSUES. Other solo and group shows include *Hampus Wernemyr* at ISSUES, Stockholm (2022); *Hampus Wernemyr på Den Gyldene Freden*, Den Gyldene Freden, Stockholm (2022); *The Collection* at Gävle Konstcentrum, Gävle (2022); *Transmission* at Konstakademien, Stockholm (2021); *Downtown Issues* at ISSUES, Stockholm (2021); *Stockholm Sessions*, Carl Kostyál, Stockholm (2021); *Tip-Tap* at Galleri Mejan, Stockholm and *Tempo Rustica*, Bångska Våningen, Stockholm (2019).

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[Skör och galen i ett mentalt gränstillstånd](#), Modig, Karolina, Artnotes.se, online, 20/04/2023

[Hampus Wernemyr at Issues Gallery](#) (review), Rundgren, Windy Fur, Konsten.net, online, 12/03/2022

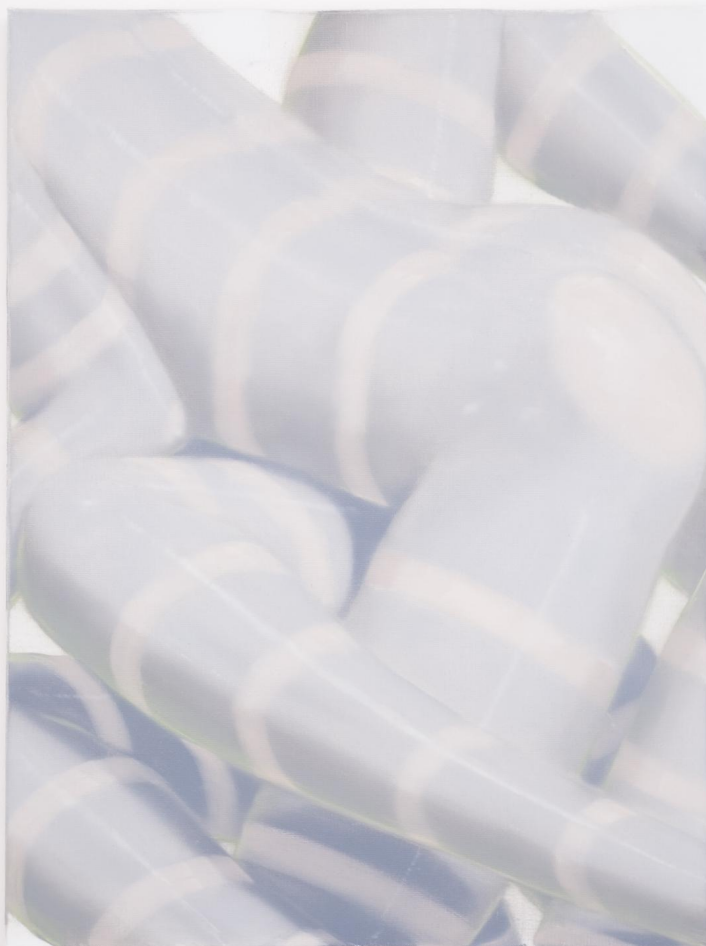
Turpentine Conclusions introduces thirteen new paintings, placed within the gallery specifically to negate a narrative. As you will learn both looking around the gallery and reading the text, each painting is meant to be viewed individually. One can say the paintings have been hung as far apart as possible. This approach isn't new, it's how Hampus' shows have been hung since *Tip-tap*, his examination show at Mejan.

However, *Turpentine Conclusions* also introduces Hampus BALANZO Wernemyr, his new but real name. The name Balanzo evokes the clown, trickster, jester or fool; all characters across time that have tapped into comedic power. Clowns make us laugh by breaking rules. They challenge principles of social and natural order. Playfully, they disrupt the life we know and re-establish it on an alternate basis. Tricksters are archetypal characters, unconstrained by form or gender, appearing in the myths of many different cultures. They use trickery to defend themselves against worldly dangers. The jester is symbolic of honesty and common sense. The lowliest member of court yet an essential advisor to the monarchy it belongs to. Through metaphor, the jester is able to speak the truth while another court member would be exiled or executed for doing the same. There's power in parody.

Similar to these comedic figures, Hampus Balanzo Wernemyr disrupts rules, boundaries; the expected through his paintings. Such as depicting two hands clasped together, a familiar and touching gesture, yet the hands are striped and yellow or the plump peachy lips of *Positive Thinking* and the golden lips of *Balanzo* both stretched into a smile or frown through clown-like lipstick. The motifs we find in the paintings are closely related to contemporary life; hands, lips, candles, birds. They aren't portals to another world, they belong firmly in this one. Hampus explains, "I'm not trying to reach another world through my paintings. This is my way of acting in this world".

When Hampus paints in his studio, he's in a place set apart, a place where he can be alone. His aim is not focused on pushing painting as a medium forward, using different materials or expanding the frame, it's about what is happening within the frame using a basic paint brush and oil. He understands the process as the mind's potential "you can see the stars, yourself as an astronaut, you can conjure anything!" In the studio Hampus dissolves and Balanzo appears. Relaxed and confident, the strokes just happen. Thousands of moments, life at home, pacing the streets, glimpses of everyday objects, are brought to this one. Painting one week or even a day later, everything could be different. In this moment he's balancing emotions, impressions, assumptions. Sadness appears alongside happiness, a pair of lips frowning and smiling at the same time, a balancing act.

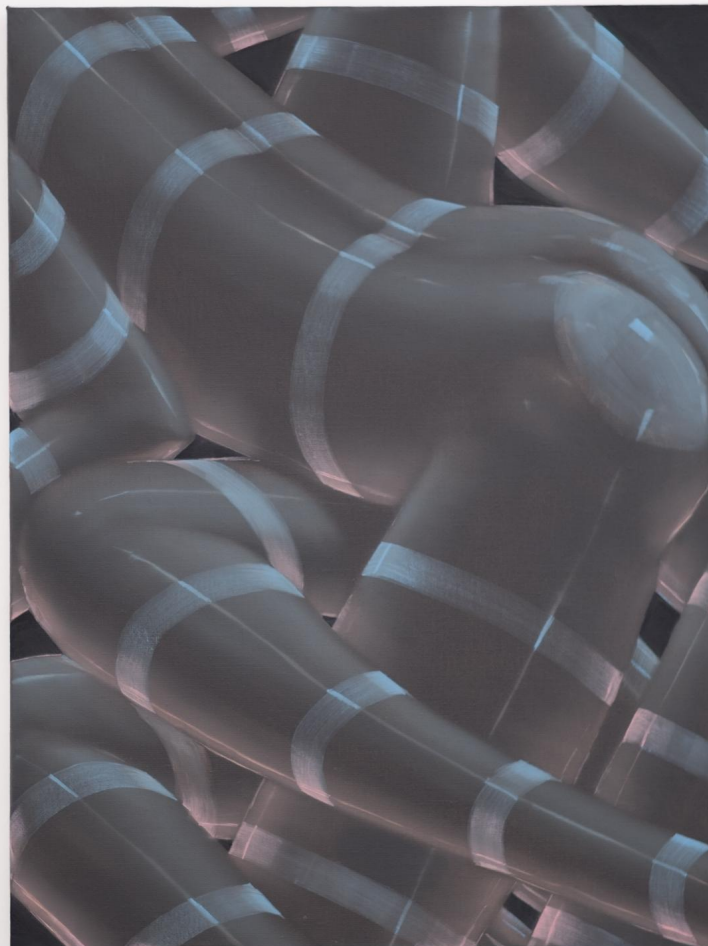
When the paintings are finished, Balanzo has played its part and Hampus exits the studio. He tells us "I don't understand what the works are, just like I don't understand what or who I am." Leaving the studio and the painting process behind is like waking up to the echoes of a dream, a magical realm that spits you back into the world and leaves you seeing a little more magic. Perhaps this is what we, as visitors to the gallery, can take away as well, the power in traversing boundaries and a magical perspective.



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR
Acrobatics
2023
Olja på duk
60,5 x 45cm
Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR
Acrobatics, Dirty Yellow
2023
Olja på duk
60,5 x 45cm
Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR
Acrobatics at Night
2023
Olja på duk
60,5 x 45cm
Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR

Relief

2023

Olja på duk

52 x 66cm

Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR

Positive Thinking

2023

Olja på duk

45 x 60,5cm

Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR
Blue Light
2023
Olja på duk
55,5 x 44,5cm
Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR

Floor Contact

2023

Olja på duk

43,5 x 52,5cm

Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR

Fruit Basket

2023

Olja på duk

38 x 45,5cm

Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR
Extension
2023
Olja på duk
42,5 x 31,5cm
Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR

Gold Lips

2023

Olja på duk

31,5 x 42,5cm

Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR

Vibrato

2023

Olja på duk

31,5 x 42,5cm

Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR

Full Moon Flight

2023

Olja på duk

31,5 x 42,5cm

Signerad a verso



HAMPUS BALANZO WERNEMYR
Kitten Paws
2023
Olja på duk
19 x 24,8cm
Signerad a verso