



PRESS RELEASE

SUMMER GROUP SHOW

IN ARCADIA

4 JULY – 14 AUGUST 2020

Husk Gallery is pleased to present *In Arcadia*, the first summer group show in the gallery with Emmy Asakura, Peter Depelchin, Dirk Eelen, Pascale Lorge, Inge H. Schmidt and Jan Valik. Over a period of six weeks, this curated exhibition offers meditations on the theme of Arcadia by six contemporary artists.

Selected works by Emmy Asakura, Peter Depelchin, Dirk Eelen, Pascale Lorge, Inge H. Schmidt and Jan Valik evoke *Arcadia*, an idealised place where peace and gentle joy reign. Although some define it as *Utopia* or some prefer *Eden*, *Arcadia* has a more secular resonance that expresses universal well-being and personal dreams. The word Arcadia is derived from the name of a pastoral region of ancient Greece that was represented as a rural paradise in Greek and Roman bucolic poetry. It was inhabited by shepherds who led a simple, happy life in a mountainous district in the heart of the Peloponnesus, where this pastoral community enjoyed music and dancing.

Embracing the zeitgeist in these times of Covid-19 and Black Lives Matter protests, art reminds us of the hope and the desire of an *Arcadia* amidst the surrounding unrest, death and chaos. The summer exhibition at Husk Gallery features artworks that refer to places full of tranquillity, our connection with nature or scenes of simple pleasure. Each of them is a window to a different vision of Arcadia, as they largely define the quality of our human existence, both in an individual and a universal sense.

These works by six contemporary artists reveal the search for a personal Arcadia and ways of fulfilment. Reconnection with nature and the deep affection for our loved ones particularly define the quality of our Arcadias.

Emmy Asakura's painting *Forest Bathing* (2020) evokes the sheer joy of walking in the lush forest on a hot day to refresh the body, listen to the birds and mindfully explore the surrounding details. Similarly, the wandering artist **Pascale Lorge** invites us to contemplate the diversity of natural leaves and floral beauty through her *Folium Books* (2019) and *Effleurements* series (2020), in which she reminds us of the singularity of plants. Creating one's own garden as a metaphor for Arcadian longing, garden design is a means to heighten the experience of nature. Paintings from **Dirk Eelen's** series *Il faut cultiver notre jardin* (2016) highlight the friction between nature and culture in our gardens. The garden space is not only an invitation to pause, it is a place to immerse ourselves in different sensorial activities, such as listening to birds, smelling flowers and watching butterflies. A garden is a kind of natural place where you can escape from the everyday, a place to recharge and take a step back from the normal routine. As a landscape painter, **Jan Valik** attempts to visualise Arcadia on his canvas as an imaginary locus. *Thoughts Out of Arcadia* (2020) is a refuge or shelter for the restless, seeking mind. In *Earthshine* (2020), he depicts a scenery with a fugitive shining light as an allegory of an awakening of a new vision. Arcadian or bucolic landscapes are often depicted as green idyllic paradises, inviting us to pause and reflect. They can also be the setting for a sensual love affair, as expressed in **Inge H. Schmidt's** *Love in Green* (2015). The scene of a couple making love in a green decor expresses the universal desire for intense love and profound happiness. In 2016, **Peter Depelchin** visited the legendary region of Arcadia in the centre of the Peloponnesian peninsula, which inspired him to create his ten *Arcadia* drawings (2016). This vast land made such an impression on the artist, that he imagined his pregnant wife and muse lying in the Arcadian meadows, covered with flowers.

The aspiration to create a personal Arcadia is not a melancholic contemplation or about the longing to live in a utopian place or in the past. *In Arcadia* refers to this present, the here and now, and is all about taking the time to slow down and to enjoy little pleasures and about the joy of living, love and personal enlightenment. The contemporary Arcadia is a reflection of the genuine pursuit of individual well-being and shared happiness in our world.

Opening

Sunday 4 July 2020 from 11 am to 7 pm

Opening hours

Gallery opening hours during exhibitions > Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 6 pm or by appointment

For further inquiries: info@huskgallery.com – Tel. +32 478 52 16 46 – www.huskgallery.com

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