

Withdrawn from any traces of contemporary life, Tanja Nis-Hansen's paintings present a scenery that reveals the painter's sensibility towards what could be described as an unconventional synthesis of historical styles.

The artist holds a tremendous fascination for theatre and stage design, which in the paintings does not only surface through the inner logic of space on the canvas, but also through an all over "theatrical" mode of representation. Nis-Hansen's works not only depict metaphorical narratives that portray interior conditions, but also demonstrate contemporary strategies in painting.

Looking at the elongated bodies, refined draperies and the psychedelic use of colors and patterns, the characters here seem to be "undead". Like vampiric creatures, they carry the memory of passed times and styles. While resembling gothic portal figures tripping in a psychedelic dream they illustrate the quality of painting, bringing forth the most idiosyncratic artistic practices. Even though some of the figures possess four arms and auratic, flashy eyes their emotional expressions seem to be redirected from their own faces and bodies and straight into the eyes of the viewer, or to the compositional elements surrounding them. The characters themselves seem to be carried by a static tranquility, which at times evoke an uncanny feeling. Their latent rigidity is enhanced by their placement within the architectural settings and the continuous use of flat surfaces. One encounters figures pinched between folded surfaces and backgrounds, full of elegance and control. It seems that they are almost in need of holding their breaths and posture to retain the inner logic of the claustrophobic composition.

It is this fragile, transitory moment between inhaling and exhaling that unlocks the enigma of time and place depicted in the works. Similarly to the surrealists or artists of the new objectivism movement, Tanja Nis- Hansen creates dreamlike sequences which in the distortion of reality actually manage to conjure what in fact makes us hold our breath – a deep interior, that might hold all the feelings and things repressed and packed away.

– Cathrin Mayer



Tanja Nis-Hansen (born in 1988, Denmark) lives and works in Berlin. She studied in Copenhagen and Vienna before achieving both her BFA (2016) and MFA (2018) at the Academy of Fine Arts, Hamburg under the supervision of professor Jutta Koether.

The artist has had solo exhibitions at Vestjyllands Kunstpavillon, Videbæk (2022); Sans titre, Paris (2022 and 2019); Udstillingsstedet Sydhavn Station, Copenhagen (2019); HfBK, Hamburg (2018); Come Over chez Malik's, Hamburg (2017). The artist was awarded the Neue Kunst Hamburg grant with Niclas Riepshoff (with whom she forms the performance duo CONNY) and a grant by the Danish Art Council in 2019, after being nominated for the Hamburger Arbeitsstipendium, the Hiscox Kunstpreis and the Schues Nachwuchsförderung all in 2018. In 2023, the artist will have a solo exhibition at palace enterprise, Copenhagen.

Selected group exhibitions include 'Kassandras søstre' at Rundetårn, Copenhagen (2022); 'La forme de l'eau', Paris (2022); 'Sleeping In', June, Berlin (2022); 'Ancient Tongues', L'INCONNUE, New York (2021); 'INDEX Vienna', SORT, Vienna (2019); 'Space Opera', Crum Heaven, Stockholm (2019); 'La Première', Sans titre, Paris (2019); 'Fruits Suspended and Swaying', AEDT, Düsseldorf (2019); 'Sanguine Husk', Rumpelstiltskin, New York (2018); Nominees at Kunsthaus Hamburg (2018); 'Amore Atomico di Amore di Lava', Galleria Federico Vavassori, Milan (2018); Munchener Kammerspiele, Munich (2018); 'Compassionate', Der Tank, Institut Kunst HGK FHNW, Basel (2018); 'Luxury problems', Halle für Kunst Lüneburg (2017); 'The trusting place', Galerie der HfBK, Hamburg (2016); 'Yolo', Godsbanen, Aarhus (2015) and 'Fluid Mechanic', Parallel Vienna, Vienna (2014).



Tanja Nis-Hansen
Born in 1988, Faxe, Denmark (DK)
Lives and works in Berlin (DE)

EDUCATION

2016-2018
MFA, Academy of Fine Arts, Hamburg (DE)
with professor Jutta Koether and guestprofessor Kerstin Brätsch

2014-2016
BFA, Academy of Fine Arts, Hamburg (DE)
with professor Jutta Koether and guestprofessor Gregor Hildebrandt

2011-2014
Studies in Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna (AT)
with professor Silke Otto-Knapp and Henning Bohl

2011
Vera, School of Art, Copenhagen, (DK)
Class of Sonja Lillebæk, Christensen and Pernille With Madsen

2008-2009
Spektrum, School of Art, Copenhagen, (DK)
Class of Ingela Skytte and Thomas Skytte

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023
Palace Enterprise, Copenhagen (DK) (upcoming)

2022
Employee of the month, Vestjyllands Kunstpavillon, Videbæk (DK)
Platform - David Zwirner Gallery with L'INCONNUE (online)
The Great Spaghettification, Sans titre (2016), Paris (FR)

2021
LISTE with Sans titre (2016), Basel (CH)

2020
LISTE Showtime with Sans titre (2016) (online)

2019
The Benign Tumour, Sans titre (2016), Paris (FR)
De Himlende Øjne (The Rolling Eyes), Udstillingsstedet Sydhavn Station,
Copenhagen (DK)

2018
[INDISTINCT RADIOCHATTER], MFA Degree show, HfBK, Hamburg (DE)

2017
Sheer Splendour, Come Over Chez Malik's, Hamburg (DE)

2015
L'amour Toujours, Golden Pudel Club, Hamburg (DE)

SELECTED
GROUP
EXHIBITIONS

2022

Mon palais, choir, Sans titre, Paris (FR)
Kassandras søstre, Rundetårn, Copenhagen (DK)
La forme de l'eau, curated by Nicolas Dewavrin, Paris (FR)
Sleeping In, June, Berlin (DE)

2021

20:15 Uhr, CONNY (Tanja Nis-Hansen & Niclas Riepshoff), Galerie Melike Bilir -
Neue Kunst Hamburg Travel Grant, cur. by Eva Birkenstock, Hamburg (DE)
For some bags under the eyes, Sans titre (2016), Paris (FR)
Ancient Tongues, L'INCONNUE, New York (NY)

2019

INDEX Vienna, SORT, Vienna (AT)
SALON, presentation at ArtBerlin fair with artist duo CONNY (Tanja Nis-Hansen
and Niclas Riepshoff), Sans Titre (2016), Berlin (DE)
Band Wagon NO 1, Group event by Sina Manthey, Pogo-Bar, KW, Berlin (DE)
Fruits Suspended and Swaying, AEDT, Düsseldorf (DE)
La Première, Sans titre (2016), Paris (FR)
Cast as a scene, participating with a soundtrack for Emelie Carléns, STPLN,
Malmö (SW)
Space Opera, Crum Heaven, Stockholm (SW)

2018

Nominees, Hamburger Arbeitsstipendium, Kunsthaus Hamburg (DE)
Sanguine Husk, Rumpelstiltskin, New York (NY)
Café Miao Presents: Tour de Miao, Performance, Münchener Kammerspiele,
Munich (DE), in occasion of the performance program Cold Chills by Jutta
Koether
Hiscox Kunstpreis 2018, HfBK, Hamburg (DE)
[Indistinct Radiochatter], MFA Degree show, HfBK, Hamburg (DE)
Compassionate, Der Tank, Institut Kunst HGK FHNW, Basel (CH)
Amore Atomico di Amore di Lava, Galleria Federico Vavassori, Milan (IT)

2017

The X-mas Show, Performance night, Galerie der HfBK, Hamburg (DE)
Luxury problems, Halle für Kunst Lüneburg (DE)
Kayanapoli Procession 2017, performance night, Casa Morra, Napoli, (IT),
Initiated by KAYA (Kerstin Brätsch and Debo Eilers)
Suspicious Shapes, performance program Class of Jutta Koether, HfBK,
Hamburg (DE), performance with Avital Bolotinsky, Nils Jakob Timm und
Torben Wessel

2016

Hotbed for a Young Teenage Mutant, Degreeshow BFA, HfBK, Hamburg (DE)
The trusting place, a one-act-play, Galerie der HfBK, Hamburg (DE)

2015

Yolo, Godsbanen, Aarhus (DK)

2014

Ke, artists autumn exhibition, Den Frie, Copenhagen (DK)
FLuid Mechanic, Parallel Vienna, Vienna (AT)
Leiblichkeit und sexualität, Votiv Kirche, Vienna (AT)

AWARDS
AND GRANTS

2020

Awarded Neue Kunst Hamburg travel grant for performance duo CONNY

2019

Work grant from the Danish Art Council (DK)

2018

Nominated for Hamburger Arbeitsstipendium (DE)

Nominated for Hiscox Kunstpreis (DE)

Nominated for the Schües Nachwuchsförderung (DE)

2016

Gisela Könk Grant Stiftung (DE)

PUBLICATIONS

2021

CONNY, 20:15 Uhr, edited by Eva Birkenstock and published for Neue Kunst Hamburg e.V.

2020

Tanja Nis-Hansen, The Benign Tumour with texts by Cathrin Mayer, Julie Gufler and Eloi Boucher, edited by Charles Levai, produced with the help of the Danish Art Council and published by Sans titre (2016)