

THOMAS PIHL

A RETROSPECTIVE

KODE, BERGEN SPRING-SUMMER 2020

The first retrospective exhibition of Thomas Pihl's oeuvre is under preparation, with works from the early 1990's till today. The exhibition is commissioned by KODE BERGEN – Bergen Art Museum - and will open in January 2021 in Bergen. Appr. 70 works will be exhibited, including paintings, drawings and sculptures, and with many new works.

An extensive catalogue will be published with texts both in Norwegian and English, articles by Norman Kleeblatt and others.

The curator of the show is Karin Hellandsjø, art historian and museum director emerita. In a meeting taking place in Bergen early June 2019, a proper schedule and outline both of the exhibition and of the catalogue will be decided upon. This schedule and exhibition plans will be soon after made available.

I work with color and natural light. The process to derive at a visually charged artistic result is to add layer upon layer of translucent paint. I disperse the fine pigment into a slab of acrylic medium, This not only to facilitate a vehicle for light to physically penetrate and infiltrate the surface which create a complex blend of painterly and natural light. It also creates a mix of pigment and light so intimate, that it is difficult for the eye to differentiate. The layers of translucent paint are laid out with almost invisible contrasts to challenge and test the eyes capacity to differentiate subtle and barely visible phenomena.

I hope to both clarify and obscure the eyes ability to pin down where the experience clearly starts, and where it ends. I reduce the visual vocabularies to a seemingly monochromatic layout where the color and light bounce back to the eye. The grain of pigment is suspended in a slab of clear acrylic medium. This again opens up for natural light to penetrate the surface of the painting. The light occupies the translucent space between the surface and the canvas and surrounds the pigment.

This visual arrangement opens the surface of the painting to the onlooker's and bleed in through the suspended fog of pigment. The veiled manipulations and the sensuality of the surface may stand as metaphors for discovery and possible detection. I do not tell any stories. I want to ignite a flow of creative experiences between the artwork and the act of seeing.

Artist statement by Thomas Pihl made in connection with the exhibition «Light Lines» at Scandinavia House NYC. Oct. 2018 -Jan. 2019

For information on Thomas Pihl and his work, please visit his website:

www.thomaspihl.net

<http://kodebergen.no>



















