

Simo Mantere
VARO TUOL ON PURKKA
WATCH OUT THERE IS A CHEWING GUM
21.2. – 11.3.2018

When I look at the paintings of Simo Mantere (1983) my gaze wanders from one painting's surface to another – until the marks around the paintings catch my focus and I immerse in memories. In this way the nature of these paintings as objects expand indefinitely. The marks in Simo Mantere's detailed paintings create recollections of different marks in the surrounding environment, on the skin and in the history of art. It feels like the artist has gathered in his paintings various brush strokes he has made during his life, from childhood to this day.

The artist describes his upcoming exhibition in my recorded interview:

“chewing gum is a bit like how people take a gum after a meal
and they want to cover everything with it
maybe it's also that I dislike any changes
and it's a change if you take a piece of gum

stepping on a piece of gum is something you can imagine
just by seeing a flattened gum on the ground

now that I look at those side by side I quite like them
after taking that one out of the corner

I'm fascinated by something missing
and continuing somewhere else”

Simo Mantere (b. 1983 in Kotka) lives and works in Helsinki. He attained a degree in Fine Arts at Saimaa University of Applied Sciences in 2013. His exhibition in tm●galleria is his eighth solo exhibition. Mantere is a member of the Finnish Painters' Union, South Karelia Artists' association and Helsinki Artists' Association. Mantere's works are in the collections of Lappeenranta Art Museum.

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