

Henna Julia: Exoskeleton

Insect shell, flesh of a plant, bones of the sea, foreign and organic bodies. Spiraling petal, bivalves, rock coral, strange creature in the depths. Our bodies are interconnected. Veins of a leaf spread out, a heart of a fly pumps fluid into a pair of insect wings, a nervous system branches into hyphae and a river into small streams, hot magma bursts into droplets. A heating globe turns around its axis. The processes take a second or thousands of years.

Flowering and decay follow each other in continuous but changing cycles. In- and outside of our bodies, entities are born and age, formations evolve, attach to one another, split and reorganize. In my painting I use these reactions, which also occur when different painting substances meet on the canvas. Liquid paint spreads and accumulates. The brush strokes keep the gelatinous substance together like an external supporting structure that holds the body intact, an exoskeleton.

The exhibition features oil paintings on canvas and on round boards. The paintings combine small- and large-scale events, bodily plants, aquatic organisms, and strangely familiar anatomy. They speculate on possible worlds and open up views from inside a drop of water, down to the deep seabed and up into the atmosphere.

Henna Julia (b. 1990 in Turku) graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from University of the Arts Helsinki's Academy of Fine Arts in 2016. She works in her studio in Vallila, Helsinki, and has recently been to residencies in Taipei and Paris. The exhibition at tm•gallery is her fifth solo exhibition.

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