

JULIE WAGENER

Where is the light coming from

June 9th, 2022 – July 9th, 2022

In her work, Julie Wagener is interested in the construction of the *Selbst-Verständnis* (Self-understanding) of the 21st century individual: the contextualization of existence, the fabrication of identity and the appropriation of meaning. In this context, it is the loneliness, the feelings of distress, abandonment, and alienation of the individual in the face of our society that are central to the artist's painting.

The individual is faced with a reality that is difficult to define and consequently not easy to live with. The result is a society stunned by the magnitude of the global situation and its geopolitical, economic, and environmental crises, which provokes emotional detachment, apathy, feelings of powerlessness and disorientation. The inability or impossibility to change or adapt to the existing conditions imposed by the system leads to alienation and identity conflicts. Existential anguish arises from trying to understand one's reality or just managing one's daily life.

Depression, burn-out, insomnia and anxiety disorders and suicide always face a huge social stigma. Experienced by the masses but most often suffered alone, symptoms of exhaustion, isolation or despair remain signs of weakness in a system that glorifies the successful, active and engaged individual. The persistent taboo within society reinforces the feeling of guilt and loneliness among those concerned and thus blocks the way to empathy, dialogue and acceptance. Despite the absence of any aggressive or agitated elements, even bordering on an area of calm and innocence, the depicted scenes evoke an underlying violence - an unease that is reflected in the pale, almost corpse-like skin tones. Combined with the white fabric, the paintings evoke death and the disintegration of the living body. Alongside these symbols, emptiness takes hold and becomes an integral element of the composition.

After graduating in the plastic arts section and studying illustration in Brussels, Julie Wagener made it her profession in 2015. Julie uses a visual language of symbolism and inspiration from folklore, myths and legends, film history and art. With a penchant for the macabre and occult, her paintings often show a sad or mysterious mood. By endowing her drawings with meticulous and intriguing details, she hopes to create unusual images that surprise those who take the time to discover them. In 2021, Julie Wagener was the winner of the Revelation Prize of the Cercle artistique luxembourgeois.



Julie Wagener | *I Am Looking For You In The Woods Tonight I*, 2022
Oil on wood
200 x 100 cm

EXHIBITION VIEWS



Exhibition view | Julie Wagener | *Where is the light coming from* © Christof Weber



Exhibition view | Julie Wagener | *Where is the light coming from* © Christof Weber



Exhibition view | Julie Wagener | *Where is the light coming from* © Christof Weber

CV

JULIE WAGENER

Born in 1990 in Bogota, Colombia, lives and works in Luxembourg.

EDUCATION

2010 - 2013

- ESA Saint-Luc Brussels, Belgium
- BA Arts plastiques, visuels et de l'espace, Saint-Luc Brussels, Belgium

SOLO SHOWS

2022

- *Where is the light coming from*, REUTER BAUSCH Art Gallery, Luxembourg

2021

- *Pillars of the Earth*, Cecil's Box, Luxembourg
- *Spheres of Silence*, Galerie Nei Liicht, Dudelange, Luxembourg

GROUP SHOWS

2021

- *Triennale Jeune Création*, Casino- Forum d'art contemporain, Luxembourg
- *Soft Agitators*, Saarländische Galerie Berlin, Germany
- *Figure print*, Musée national d'Histoire et d'Art, Luxembourg
- *BRAVENEWWORLDORDER*, Casino forum d'art contemporain Luxembourg, Luxembourg

2019

- *Art2Cure*, Banque internationale de Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- *The Open End*, Rotondes, Luxembourg

2018 /19

- *Salon du CAL*, Cercle Artistique luxembourgeois, Luxembourg

AWARDS

2021

- Le prix Révélation, by the Ministry of culture of Luxembourg at the Salon du CAL, Cercle artistique luxembourgeois