

HELENA LUND EK

The loud wordless process

Opening: January 29th, 5-8 pm

Exhibition period ends: March 7th

Gallery opening hours:

Wednesday – Friday 12-5.30 pm, Saturday 12-4 pm

Johan Berggren Gallery is pleased to announce Helena Lund Ek's first solo exhibition at the gallery, Lund Ek (b.1988, Stockholm) graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts, Oslo, in 2014. She works primarily with painting, with the pure act of painting, as installation and sculpture.

The exhibition 'The loud wordless process' stems from a personal experience of loss and becomes a meditation on painting that feeds the interrogation of the connection between art and life. There is a strong emphasis on tactile material, bleeding oil colour on unprimed fabric with the incorporation of traditional handicraft elements such as textiles and embroidery. Large paintings, sewn together float over the ground carrying clear visual statements.

Between painterly surface and supple structure a nether-world of paint and soil, angels and spirits is summoned from the history of painting, to witness and partake in the recreation of the life of its figures in our secular age still struggling to articulate the nature of our strangest intuitions. Bodies negotiate the physical limits of their appearance with what gives them life and movement, the process whereby the figure's mobility is increased – the addition of planes surplus to the flatness of the wall-bound canvas – suggests the possibility of extra dimensions to their representation. Which can be taken as a matter of course for the work and the possibilities of seeing, as opposed to being merely a formal exploration of painting's extended field.

Lund Ek conceives of the place of painting as a critical space for the testing of effective means of secular faith and prayer. The question of experiencing transcendence is posed as part of the poetic procedure of painting as at once flight and grounding. With one foot on the ground the other in the sky, Lund Ek's painting is at once serious and playful, creating a wordless discussion between divinities and mortals on the nature of art and life.

Jonathan Beecroft