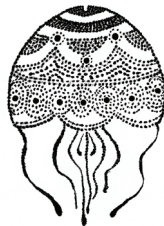


Markus Åkesson

The Woods

September 21st - November 2nd, 2013



Galerie Da-End | 17 rue Guénégaud | 75006 Paris
+33 (0)1.43.29.48.64. | www.da-end.com | galerie@da-end.com

PRESS RELEASE

From september 21st to november 2nd, Galerie Da-End is pleased to present *The Woods*, a series of new works by Swedish painter and sculptor Markus Åkesson, in what will be his debut solo exhibition in France.

Born in 1975, Markus Åkesson creates figurative paintings with a burdensome and poetic atmosphere. The artwork entitled *The Woods II* represents the starting point of the phantasmagorical journey to which Åkesson invites us; a journey through the dense Scandinavian forests where the fauna and the flora stand alongside the humans' realm. The dusky-colored aquatic and vegetal elements, the muddy peat lands and the small ponds deep in the woods, form a hymn to Nature and to Nordic legends.

At nighfall, the boundaries between dreams and reality shade off. It is this indistinct interval that Markus Åkesson likes to explore. Slowly, he takes us to the hereafter, in a metaphorical and psychical movement of catabasis. Through his paintings, Åkesson revisits the Orphic theme of the descent to the Underworld. By crossing the limits of the living world, the protagonists in his artworks defy their fears and the darkness. This initiatory trip appears to be an actual rite of passage, scattered with physical hardship and spiritual questioning.

The mystery atmosphere that prevails is accentuated by the luminous and intense palette of the painter. Filled with symbols, the cinematic scenes imagined by Markus Åkesson implicitly reveal a complex psychoanalytical content. By staging children put to the test, Åkesson emphasizes in fact the depth of the spirit's uproar. The introspective quality of this body of work seems to borrow from the literary genre of the coming-of-age roman, even more than from the Scandinavian folklore.

Lastly, several glass works evoking the terrestrial and underwater fauna as well will be exhibited. Hailing from the province of Småland, incidentally known as the Kingdom of Crystal, Markus Åkesson retains a particular appeal for this material, with which he creates totemic sculptures with organic shapes. "*My decorated objects relate to the 'cult-objects' that in past times offered mankind a channel to a fictional world for those moments when reality seems static and pointless,*" he explains.

MARKUS ÅKESSON (born in 1975)

Lives and works in Nybro, Sweden

Solo exhibitions :

2012

Vida Museum, Borgholm, SWE

2011

Pelle Unger Gallery, Stockholm, SWE

Galleri Monica Strandberg, Kalmar, SWE

2010

Bergdala Konstgalleri, Växjö, SWE

The National Museum of Glass, Växjö, SWE

Group exhibitions :

2011

Smålands Museum, National Museum of Glass, SWE

2009

Galleri Monica Strandberg, Kalmar, SWE

Handwerkform, "Floral Magic", Hannover, DE

Sydosten (Price winner), The Design Archive, Pukeberg, SWE

Collections :

The National Museum of Glass, Sweden

The National Public Art Council, Sweden

Panevezys Municipality, Lithuania

Nybro Municipality, Sweden

Emmaboda Municipality, Sweden

Kalmar Municipality, Sweden

Linköping Municipality, Sweden

Public Commissions :

When the year was longer..., glassengraving, Färjestaden School

On the run, glass mosaic, Preschool Smedjan, Kalmar

Painting series "Looking for nature", Municipality House, Nybro, Sweden

Sculpture Group "Fabel", Kristvallabrunn School, Nybro, Sweden

Glass Sculpture "Sub Surface", Hanemåla BRF, Nybro

Glass engraving "Four Themes", Ljungbyholm School, Kalmar

Grants :

2009

Sydosten Grant

Kalmar County Region Working Grant

2008

Nybro Grant of Culture

Publications :

Markus Åkesson, *In Between*, text by Sophie Allgårdh, 2011

Markus Åkesson, *Paintings and objects*, text by Milou Allerholm, 2010

AVAILABLE HI-RES IMAGES



Markus Åkesson, *The Woods II*, oil on canvas, 67x59 inches,
2012

Courtesy of Galerie Da-End



Markus Åkesson, *Xenos*, glass sculpture, L: 55 inches, 2011

Courtesy de la Galerie Da-End

GENERAL INFORMATION

MARKUS ÅKESSON - THE WOODS

September 21st through November 2nd, 2013

*Opening reception in presence of the artist
Saturday September 21st
from 6 pm to 8 pm*

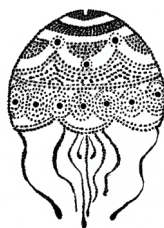
HOURS

Tuesday through Saturday, 2 pm - 7 pm
and by appointment

CONTACT

galerie@da-end.com

www.da-end.com



Galerie Da-End | 17 rue Guénégaud | 75006 Paris
+33 (0)1.43.29.48.64. | www.da-end.com | galerie@da-end.com