

Karen

Ösp

Pálsdóttir

Biography

Karen Ösp Pálsdóttir is a New York-Based painter born in Reykjavík, Iceland. She received her BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2013. While a student, Pálsdóttir co-founded FÍLE, an organization that unites Icelandic artists studying at International Schools. Her paintings have been exhibited in galleries in Baltimore, Washington DC, and Reykjavík and have been featured in various publications such as New American Paintings, Create! Magazine, SFMOMA, and Hyperallergic.

Artist's Statement

"Through painting, I investigate fractions of my female subjects by rendering them using exclusively Cobalt blue oil paint. I often add a botanical element to my work using a collage-like approach where I crop the reference imagery of my female subjects and overlay them with compositions that I capture in nature. By painting my botanical compositions in blue, I explore the historical context that early humans are considered not to have made distinctions between the colors green and blue due to rarity of blue in nature. After collaging my imagery together, I digitally dissect my final image according to value and then apply layer by layer onto my surface using oil paint. This repetitive process transfers the information of my reference image from the source to the surface. The accumulated layers of oil paint leave visible traces of the process while creating a life like depth in the portraits while the organic properties of the oil paint primates the rigid digital process."



CV

Karen Ösp Pálsdóttir (1992 Reykjavík, Iceland) lives and works in New York city.

Education

2010 –2013 Bachelor of fine arts with a minor in Art history, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)

Solo Exhibitions

2021 (planned) Karen Pálsdóttir Solo Show, Thula Gallery, Reykjavík, Iceland (postponed due to COVID-19)
2015 Halleluwah, Mengi, Reykjavík, Iceland

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 London Paint Club Group Exhibition, Juried Online Exhibition
2021 Togetherness and Oneness, Williamsburg Art & Historic Center, Brooklyn, New York
2020 Group Show, Thula Gallery, Reykjavík, Iceland
2020 As Inside / So Outside, Yngspc, Juried online exhibition
2019 Make Your Mark, The Fridge, Washington
2017 4 Generations of Icelandic Art, The Icelandic Embassy, Washington
2017 Art Matters, The Delaplain Museum, Frederick, Maryland
2016 Launch Pad, Gateway Gallery, Baltimore
2014 Thesis Exhibition, Maryland Institute College of art, Baltimore
2013 Thesis Selections, France-Merrick Foundation Gallery, Baltimore
2013 Félag Íslenskra Listnema Erlendis, Kaffistofan Gallery, Reykjavík, Iceland
2013 On Loan Exhibition; Formality, Area 405, Baltimore
2013 Disegno 6: Travelling Drawing exhibition, MICA, USC, MCAD, KCAI
2012 Themes & Narrative Exhibition, Fox 2 Gallery, Baltimore



2012	MICA Open House exhibition, Alvin & Louise Myerberg Gallery, Baltimore
2012	Juried Undergraduate Exhibitions, Decker Gallery, Baltimore

Honors and Awards

2013	Distinguished International Student Award
2012	General Fine Arts Department Recognition of Achievement Award
2010	Presidential Scholarship
2010	National Arts Honors Society Grant

Publications

2021	(Upcoming) Tibia Magazine (Print Magazine)
2021	Coronart (Book)
2021	El País, (Online Article)
2020	Celebrate Womxn 845, Social Unity Issue, May 1st, (Online zine)
2020	LED Baltimore, March 8th-14th 2020, (Billboard)
2020	Create! Magazine, February 2020, Issue 19, (Print & Online). 2019 SFMOMA, March 29th, (Online)
2018	New American Paintings, Issue #136, (Print). 2017 SFMOMA, March 11th, (Online)
2016	SFMOMA, September 16th, (Online)
2016	SFMOMA, January 8th, (Online)
2016	Cross Connect magazine, January 8th, (Online)
2015	Hyperallergic, November 14th, (Online)
2015	Hyperallergic, July 23rd, (Online)
2015	NAILED Magazine, July 14th, (Online)
2015	Hyperallergic, July 2nd, (Online)
2015	PICDIT, May 2nd, (Online)
2015	SFMOMA, February 6th, (Online)
2014	Mango Popsicle, August 24th, (Online)
2014	Hi-Fructose magazine, August 9th (Online)
2014	Sweet Station, July 24th, (Online)
2014	SFMOMA, April 18th, (Online)
2014	Creative-Boom, January 6th, (Online)
2013	Fréttabladid, July 27th, (Print)
2013	Morgunbladid, July 30th, (Print)
2013	Bmoreart, March 30th, (Online)