

Ida Sønder Thorhauge

Between Eternity and Time

August 13 – October 10, 2021

[O—Overgaden](#), Copenhagen

Unapologetically recapturing painterly clichés such as skulls, horses, nudes, flowers, and butterflies, painter Ida Sønder Thorhauge (b. 1990, DK) enters a tradition of expressionism and symbolism to make it her own. In a new series of large-scale oil paintings made especially for her show at O, she traces androgynous figures in a lifecycle from young to old, in which, behind the garlands of recognizable ornaments, lurks a dark, shapeless feeling of unease.

To be a female painter is to battle an art history that is always already dominated by men, but Thorhauge perseveres into this history, paints herself up against it, and makes it her own. She creates large-scale oil paintings with archaic motifs and so reclaims a representation that rarely sprouts from feminist thinking.

Negotiations between strength and fragility are consistent in Thorhauge's works, a subtle dualism and a love of the equivocal unify in an expression that is as whole as it is underacted and challenging.

With a confident sincerity Thorhauge ventures into the alphabet of clichés: naked people in nature, strong horses, and skulls, but behind the symbol-heavy pictorial language fundamental re-thinkings can unveil themselves. Gazes directed at these androgynous bodies seemingly belong to the bodies themselves. The horses are peculiar beings rather than war animals.

Formal mythologies of figurative painting are punctuated in Ida Sønder Thorhauge's work because she applies them with her eyes wide open. When clichés are worn as jewelry they can be revived.

[Ida Sønder Thorhauge](#) (b. 1990, DK) holds an MA from the Jutland Art Academy (2016). She primarily works from a classical, figurative painting tradition. Thorhauge's work has been exhibited in museums and exhibition spaces like Kunsthall Aarhus, Kunsthall Nord, Kunstbygning i Vrå and at Roskilde Festival, OK Corral, and the Nordic embassy in Copenhagen. In 2016 she was one of the founders of the artist collective Piscine with whom she exhibited in Denmark and abroad until 2018. She received a young artists' studio grant from the Bikuben Foundation in 2018–19 and in 2020 she was selected for the Danish Arts Foundation's two-year career development program 'The Young Artistic Elite'. Thorhauge's works have been acquired by the Danish Arts Foundation and the Visual Arts Council among others.

The exhibition is supported by the Danish Arts Foundation, Beckett-Fonden, and the Danish Art Workshops (SVFK).