

Meliksetian MB Briggs

Adam Saks

Everything the Light Touches is your Kingdom

May 27 - July 21, 2023

Opening Reception:

Saturday, May 27th 6-8pm



Meliksetian | Briggs is pleased to present *Everything the Light Touches is your Kingdom*, a new series of paintings by Danish-born, Berlin-based artist **Adam Saks** in the gallery's Dallas location. This marks the third solo exhibition of the artist's work in the gallery, and his first in Texas.

"I believe in nature as an all-encompassing experience" states the artist. "To me nature contains the very basis of our human endeavors. First of all, our growing concerns about the fragility of nature and the very fine balance that we base our existence on".

Placing himself in dialogue with German philosophers who explored existentialist themes, through visual symbolism, Adam Saks creates a structure of metaphors through figurative elements with its own compositional system. A painterly process with different approaches to paint application, in which the elements are placed organically on canvas, some levitating and creating their own order in nature, some geometrically patterned through lyrical abstraction.

"I am interested in the life-cycle of the different organic elements I use in the paintings. Sometimes a foot or a leg or the outline of a horse is protruding

from the edge of the painting, giving the painterly space a human dimension and scale" says Saks.

However, the anatomical body parts are rendered transparent or like X-rays, thereby dissolving the human figure into this seemingly natural world. We see brushwork marks of veins and blood vessels. What is important to notice is that the individual motifs are not rendered to a constant scale. A leaf is as big as an arm or several times larger than a pine cone, stressing the collage element of the overall composition. Furthermore, the viewpoint shifts from a micro perspective, with cross sections of plants or mushrooms, where the viewer becomes a spectator to the smallest cell structures, almost like looking through a microscope, to a macro view of an all-encompassing nature perspective, where mankind is relegated to a minor role. These cell structures weave through the paintings binding the elements together.

Art historical references to the 17th century Dutch Golden Age come to mind when looking at Saks' paintings. The dichotomy of nature, the beauty and looming decay, evoke the atmosphere of the Vanitas paintings commenting on the fleeting nature of life, but rendered with a contemporary outlook.

"I used to work extensively with motifs reflecting *Vanitas* and *Memento Mori*" the artist states. "The new paintings are still concerned with these themes but have now shifted into a more positive image about nature. Hence the title of my new exhibition, *Everything the Light Touches is your Kingdom* reflecting how we, humans, stride through nature and the cycle of life."

Text: Luana Hildebrandt

Adam Saks (b. 1974, Copenhagen) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen and the Hochschule der Künste (HdK), Berlin, Germany.

Recent solo exhibitions include the Kunstverein Heppenheim, Germany in 2021 as well as LAC / Lieu D'Art Contemporain, Narbonne, France (2018), Kunstverein Reutlingen, Reutlingen, Germany (2017, catalog) and the Kunsthall Nord, Aalborg, Denmark (2016, cat.). Recent group exhibitions include the major touring exhibition *Diversity United* at the Berlin Templehof and travelling to the New Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, the Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Denmark (2021), and Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin (2020) among others.

A fully illustrated catalog with essay by curator and writer Luana Hildebrandt accompanies the exhibition.