

November Per Mølgaard

ENG.

Oktober 25. - November 15. 2024

Wilson Saplana Gallery is pleased to present the solo exhibition **"November"** by the Danish artist Per Mølgaard (b. 1969). For this exhibition Mølgaard presents new large scale oil paintings in which countless layers of paint and dry pigments build up deep backgrounds and abstract environments. Here, different sensitivities appear from repeated figures such as the sharp horizon line, the backwards figure, the empty chair, the bare branch and the Swedish landscape.

Per Mølgaard graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen in the late 1990s and was part of the generation of young painters who, despite the cool minimalism and conceptual art movements of the 1990s, insisted on the contemplative quality of painting and its place on the Danish art scene. Mølgaard freely and elegantly composes painting traditions and styles such as landscape painting, abstraction, interior scenes, and portrait painting, using oil, charcoal, drawing, and collage. Unlike many of Mølgaard's artist colleagues, he moved away from the city and the fast emerging art scene in the early 2000s, towards the quiet Swedish archipelago, which has since formed the background, both mentally and aesthetically, for his practice.

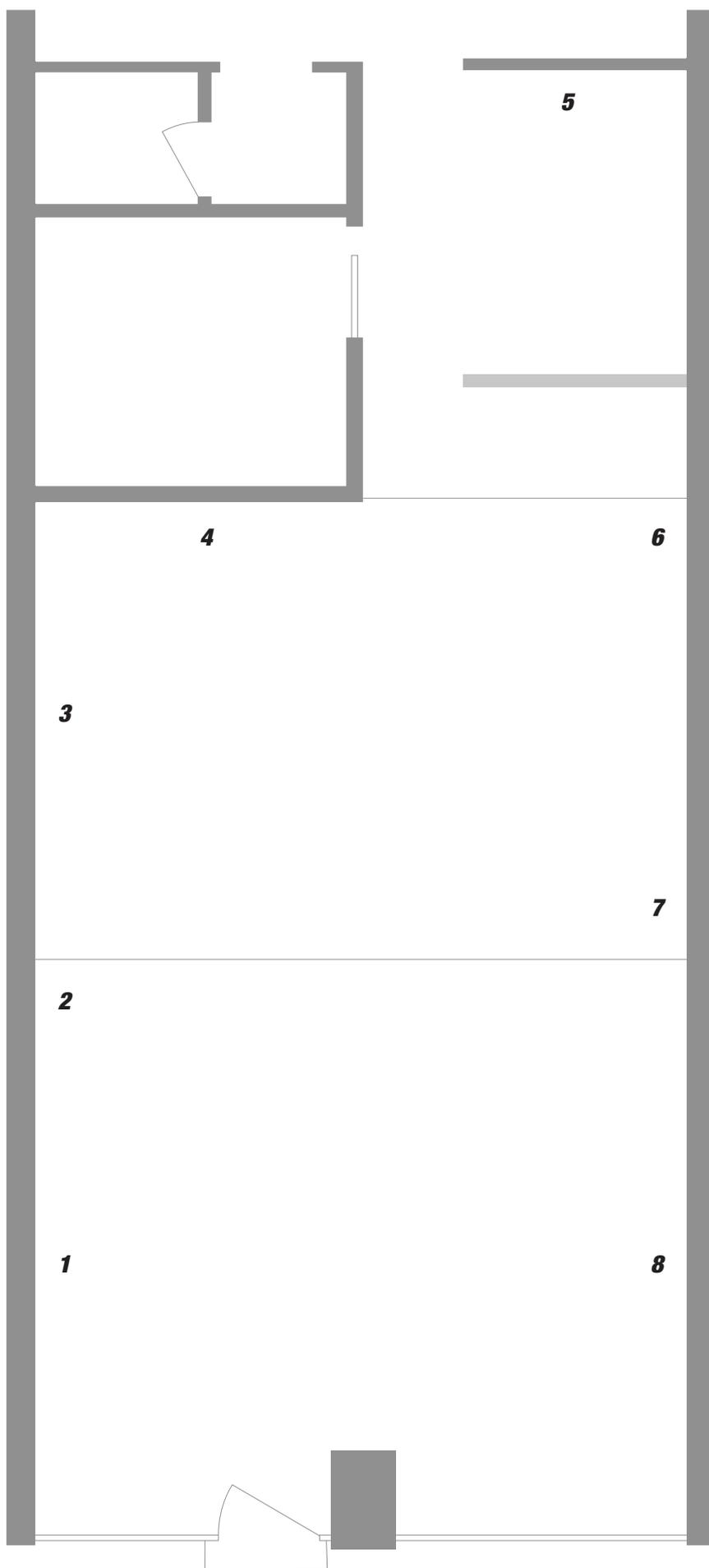
In Mølgaard's paintings, layers of oil and dusty colors meet delicate perspective lines, contours of silhouettes, and swift brushstrokes. Both nature, the studio, and living room seem to merge into one as swirling leaves and branches seem to defy the boundaries between the inner and outer worlds. They evoke sensitive and profound states of mind, as if feelings were etched into each layer. Per Mølgaard wants the content or emotions to grow out of the painting. Not as a postulate imposed upon it, nor as a clearly defined theme set in advance, but for the painting as a whole to emerge through the process. The painting must solve it on its own. Do the work.

For his exhibition at Wilson Saplana Gallery Mølgaard has rediscovered the power of the horizon line and the two-parted painting this creates – a technique he is well acquainted with in his studies of landscape painting, which he both celebrates and challenges.

In this new series of paintings, Mølgaard depicts a figure seen from behind walking thoughtfully along the shoreline at the top of the canvas, while in the lower part we see an empty space, perhaps an abandoned home. This motif is repeated in various aesthetic and abstract backgrounds, where Mølgaard pays tribute to nature in poetic and non-naturalistic dusty green, red, and blue shades. Mølgaard is fascinated by how much a single line – the horizon line – can add to the painting. This division of the painting's surface can arguably simultaneously point to a physical divide and a contemplative action..

It is precisely the delineations and abstractions of the same that are particularly characteristic of Per Mølgaard's painting. The works immediately point to a melancholy that humans experience in their encounter with nature and they remind us of the state of mind that can arise when we turn away from the noise of the city, the social interactions, and the images on screens, and instead allow our thoughts to wander freely. It is a cultivation of the individual, but on entirely different premises than those commonly performed today, where the external gaze is omnipresent and controlling. In Mølgaard's artistic practice we are instead presented for an inner gaze – for the space of memories, dreams and imagination. An undisturbed space that is our own.

Per Mølgaard (1969) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, 1993-99. Mølgaard was a co-founder of the exhibition space Hallo! along with colleagues Kasper Bonnén, John Kørner, and Gustaf Gimm, which opened in 1999. In 2014, he published the frieze The heart has got to open in a fundamental way, which is permanently displayed in the public space of Holbæk in connection with Holbæk Art curated by John Kørner. Per Mølgaard has previously exhibited at the Vestjyllands Kunstmuseum in 2022, at the Autumn Exhibition at Boulevard156, Galeri Leger, Tjörnadala Konsthall, and Brösarps Konsthall, among others in Sweden, as well as at Galleri Susanne Ottesen, Galleri Tom Christoffersen, Bendixen Contemporary Art, Galleri Gustaf Gimm, and others in Copenhagen. Mølgaard has also taught at the Art School on Ærø. He now lives and works in Sweden.



1. Judit, 2024

Oil på linen canvas
180 x 110 cm

2. Real outside, 2024

Oil on linen canvas
82 x 63 cm

3. Persien rose, 2024

Oil on linen canvas
180 x 130 cm

4. The Pilgrim, 2024

Oil on linen canvas
180 x 130 cm

5. Indigo rose / Judit, 2023

Oil on linen canvas
180 x 130 cm

6. Nat nu, 2023

Oil on linen canvas
110 x 70 cm

7. March became November, 2024

Oil on linen canvas
180x 130 cm

8. Endelig november, 2024

Oil on linen canvas
90 x 73 cm