



Ida Sønder Thorhauge: Floating Motions

Opening: Friday April 29, 17-20, Gas 9 Gallery, Gasværksvej 9, 1656, KBH V
Exhibition period: April 29 - June 4, 2022

In her first solo exhibition at Gas 9 Gallery, Ida Sønder Thorhauge (DK) has painted large oil paintings and paper works, where colors and motifs meet us as equal elements that describe connectedness, intimacy, and rites of passage. Horses, female figures, and flower meadows vibrate in expressive brushstrokes, and stories flow freely from the canvas and the paper. No one has a patent on gender, expression, and behavior when Thorhauge examines the many positions and transformations that humans and other creatures move through in a life lived.

The works reflect the great fauvist masters and modernism's depictions of monumental female figures, and they also evoke a confrontation and cultural liberation of figures throughout art history. Whereas the historical female figure has often sat rigidly on the chair with her gaze down doing domestic chores, the women in Thorhauge's universe claim their space. They are androgynous and positioned non-hierarchically. They take comfortable and free bodily positions, as in the artwork *Trying Freedom* (2022), and they always hold each other supportively and caringly. Two rides away under the starry sky on two strong horses - three look towards the horizon, and the younger front character stares intensely back at the viewer. Although this motif of horse and rider is archetypal in art history, it takes on a very different meaning in Thorhauge's artwork *Mentor and Mentee* (2022). The horses no longer appear as domesticated animals but rather as equal companions on the journey. In the work *Passing the Gate* (2022), where two people walk with their backs away from the viewer, another archetypal motif is confronted as the figure turns its head and looks back at us. The artwork confronts the classic motif of a back-turned woman - and questions how art motifs through history shape cultural and social notions of body, and gender, and which gaze is dominant?

In *Floating Motions* Thorhauge presents us with a new type of character who shows strength through vulnerability and care - and who equally addresses us and enjoys their own space. They are creatures in transformation, have broad shoulders, round bellies, strong limbs, and are in contact with nature. In her new works, Thorhauge lets go and let the brush run free. The result is alluring and expressive, where the many layers of color create depth and open up new readings and possibilities.

Ida Sønder Thorhauge (b. 1990, DK) is MA from The Jutland Art Academy in 2016. She has exhibited at art institutions and museums all over Denmark, such as Overgaden - Institut for Samtidskunst, Kunsthal Aarhus, Kunsthal Nord, and at Roskilde Festival and OK Corral. In 2020 she was awarded a spot in The Danish Arts Foundation's career program The Young Artistic Elite and her work was acquired by The Danish Arts Foundation and Rådet for Visuel Kunst.