

An abstract painting by Kenneth Blom. The composition features a central figure in a yellow-green dress standing in a doorway or hallway. The background is a mix of teal, blue, and white, with a large, dark, curved shape hanging from the top. A red vertical band is on the left. The overall style is expressive and modern.

LUISACATUCCI
GALLERY

KENNETH BLOM

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ARTIST DOSSIER

"You can use painting—and this is why I think it's so important—to give [the viewer] a little break; it stops time for just a little while".

Kenneth Blom

Kenneth Blom was born in 1967 in Roskilde, Denmark. He's currently living and working in Oslo, Norway. He studied first at the Oslo Academy of Art, (1990-1994) and later at the Düsseldorf Art Academy (1994-1995).

Kenneth Blom at Pékin Fine Arts, Hong Kong

Walking into the gallery space, your personal aesthetic is particularly strong. Please, could you explain your process of creation?

The process always begins with a strong composition, making up the circles and lines, and then at the end, I put in the people ... it all depends on the composition. So in a way, I work abstractly when I do these things; I'm not a figurative painter when I do the process but it ends up being that.

So does the imagery come from your imagination rather than reality?

No, it's a mix. I mean you walk around, you see people as you do now [points to the exhibition], but it's a mix of fantasy and reality. I need [people] to be alive. I need them to start to walk, to fight, to kiss, to scream. In a way, it's a real life story I've tried to talk about, but it's not from [the] real. Mostly I don't use models; I just use the idea.

Your earlier works are very traditional, figurative images. Did you start by drawing and painting from life models initially?

Yes. I had a straight academic education, but since I was fifteen I have always loved Danish farmer paintings ... the lonely boy standing on the road—it went to me directly. And when I was studying art in Düsseldorf, it was quite another stage of art: conceptual, rough work, reduced installations. We went to this big show in Copenhagen, and I remember I just couldn't get it, so I went back to [painting] private small rooms. So I'm a rather old fashioned painter, but I see now that painting changes all the time, and that's why I love the medium.

You say your paintings are old-fashioned; they also appear quite distant, almost dystopian.

You can use painting—and this is why I think it's so important—to give [the viewer] a little break; it stops time for just a little while. You can walk into a gallery and be quiet in front of a painting. It gives a little break from the rushing time. I love that this medium [does that].

While many other artists jump between video and installation, painting and sculpture you religiously remain a painter. What is it about the medium that appeals so much?

I think it's just like going into a friendship for a long time—it creates a special kind of friendship. You can also have friends that maybe last for two weeks, which are also interesting, but there's something about working for a period and going really into the stuff. Now we have to be careful because you can choose to do both dancing and making art, or sound and installation, or theatre, whatever, which is right. I love to paint so I thought, well I think I'm going to paint for some years now and see what that is, and I couldn't stop. So you lose something by doing that, but you also gain something; you're in focus your whole life. I am trying to make the best painting and then I will quit; it won't happen (laughs).



"The house", 2017



"Pool", 2017



"Beach", 2018



"Wood", 2018

Solo Exhibitions

2018

Pekin fine art Beijing

2017

Muster Meier Gallery Bern/Switzerland

Pekin Fine art Hong Kong

Gallery Haaken Oslo

2016

Maerz contemporary Berlin

2015

Pekin Fine Arts, Hong Kong

Gallery Haaken Oslo

2014

Jason McCoy Gallery, New York

January 15

2013

Gallery Haaken, Oslo

2012

Studio Hugo Opdal/Moods of Norway Flø

2012

Gallery Haaken, Oslo

2011

Maerz Contemporary.Berlin

2011

Gallery Haaken, Oslo

2010

Galleri Bouhlou, Bergen

Jason McCoy Gallery New York

2009

Galleri Haaken, Oslo

2009

Galleri Haaken, Oslo

2008

Stavanger Art Society European Capital of Culture

2007

Colonnade Gallery at Sotheby's, London

Galleri Haaken, Oslo

2006

Aalesunds Art Society

2005

Henie Onstad Art Center

2003
Galleri Haaken, Oslo
2002
Galleri Haaken, Oslo
2000
Galleri Haaken, Oslo
1999
Galleri 27, Oslo
1998
Galleri 27, Oslo

Group Exhibitions

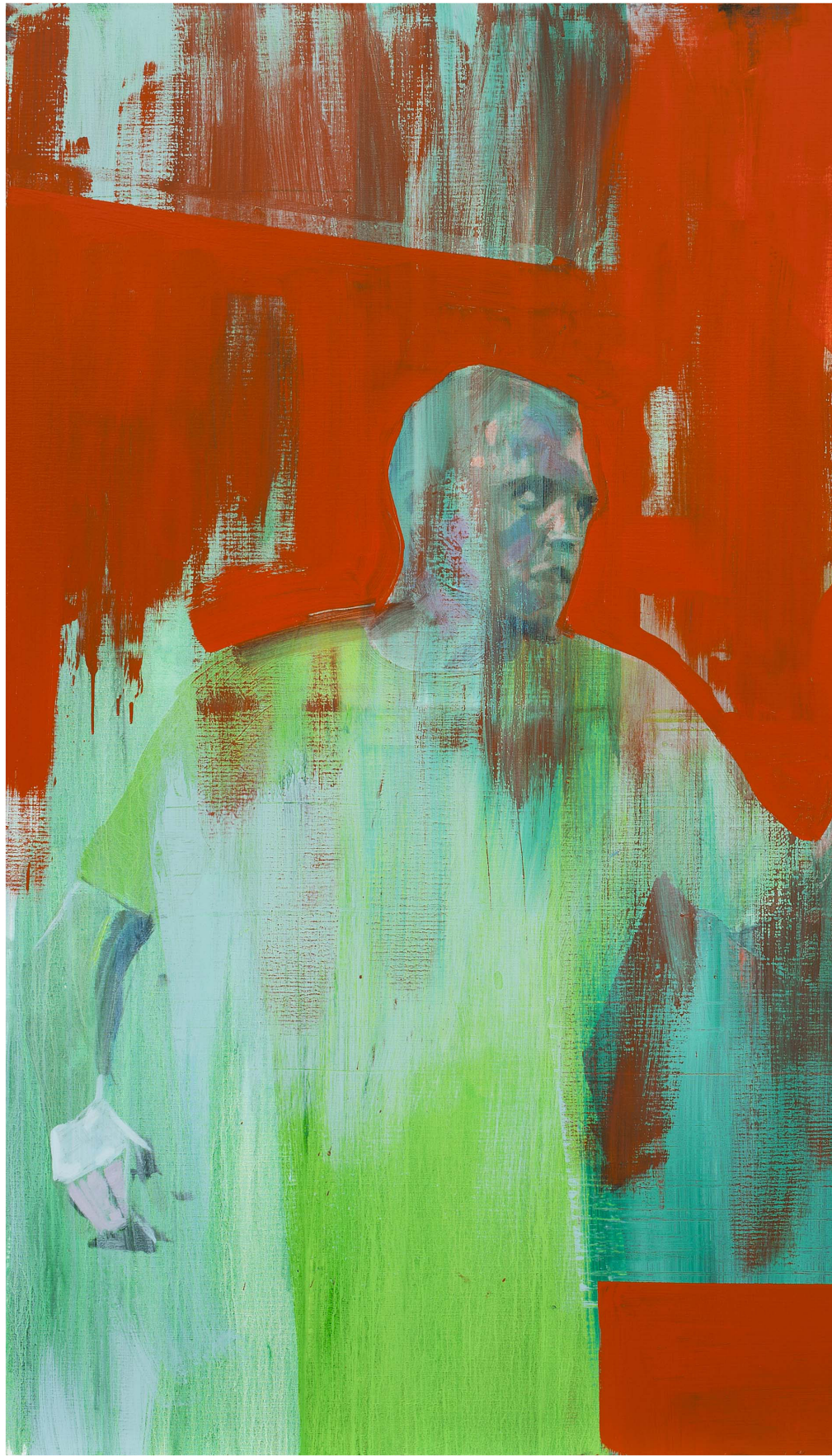
2016
Studio Hugo Opdal Flø/Ulstein
2014
Transformation
Serbia/Beograd-Romania/Bucharesti
2014
Rarity gallery, Greece
Summer 2014
2013
jason McCoy Gallery, New York
2011
Jason McCoy Gallery, New York
2010
Jason McCoy Gallery
2006
Galleri Haaken, Oslo
2004
Galleri Haaken, Oslo
2003
Henie Onstad Art Center
2002
Galleri Haaken, Oslo
1998
Galleri Bomuldsfabrikken, Arendal
1995
Trondheim Art Society
1994
Galleri Bomuldsfabrikken, Arendal
Oslo Art Society



"Green Pond", 2018



"Run", 2017



"Leave me", 2018





"Night", 2017

LUISACATUCCI GALLERY

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