

# "ZSA ZSA ZSU"

## POP-UP SHOW

14 FEB - 19 FEB 2022

M/GALLERY, A. BRIANA 9, RIGA

M/Gallery presents a pop-up exhibition "Zsa Zsa Zsu" featuring works by Latvian artists Kristine Kutepova, Laura Kaktina, and David Ruban. The exhibition will feature original paintings and limited edition prints. The name "Zsa Zsa Zsu" describes a feeling you get when you meet someone or something that you really like; the "butterflies" of anticipation and possibilities.

The show will present Kutepova's never-seen-before paintings, which will transport you to a hot summer day and give the feeling of lying in the grass without a care in the world. Her use of bright colours and acrylic paint adds a magical quality to the familiar scenes, giving you the "zsa zsa zsu" about the warmer days ahead. These selected works will be a preview for Kutepova's solo exhibition at M/Gallery, due to open on 24 Feb 2022, on Riga Last Thursdays, a monthly gallery night organised by Elen Salina, the curator of M/Gallery. Joining Kutepova in "Zsa Zsa Zsu" are Laura Kaktina's paintings of the summer days in Pavilosta and Jurkalne, where Kaktina's perfect symmetry and calming pastels bring out her graphic design background to the forefront.

David Ruban's abstract paintings, with shapes and forms reminiscent of Kandinsky, will add a splash of colour and paint to the show.

### About Kristīne Kutepova

Kristīne Kutepova (1982) graduated from the Latvian Academy of Arts, Department of Visual Arts, Bachelor's (2017) and Master's (2019) study programs. She received the award of the Latvian Academy of Arts "SEB Scholarship in Painting" in 2017 and the scholarship of patron Ināra Tetereva in 2015. Since 2014, she has participated in various group exhibitions, including international projects in Italy and Germany. The works are in private collections in the Royal Palace of Sweden, Russia, Norway and Poland. The most important solo exhibitions, "Visions" Riga Art Space, "Wonderland" Jurmala City Museum, "Portraits of Nature" Liepāja Museum, "Consciousness Fixations" in Valmiera City Museum.

### About Laura Kaktiņa

Laura Kaktiņa was born in Riga, Latvia, where she currently lives and works. She studied Fine Arts at the Latvian Academy of Art, and her work has been exhibited at a number of solo and group shows, as well as art fairs. Kaktiņa's work is characterised by earthy tones and smooth, calming colour fields. The near-perfect symmetry and positioning of the objects within the landscapes pay homage to Laura's background in graphic design, where the visual language follows strict rules of composition.

### About David Ruban

David Ruban makes paintings and mixed media artworks characterized by vivid contrasting colors and juxtaposed flat geometric shapes. Through the lines and expressive brushstrokes, Ruban explores emotional tensions that are often based on personal experience.

The colors he uses are bright yet not aggressive – baby pink and blue, purple, light green, yellow, - making a viewer feel the mellowness of the artist's personality and outlook on the outside world. David Ruban currently lives and works in Riga, Latvia.

### About M/Gallery

M/Gallery is a contemporary art gallery hosted on the first floor of the cultural centre M/ Darbnīca. Situated in an iconic historical setting of one of the Fon Stricka Villa mansions, our doors will welcome you to the intriguing juxtaposition of the old and new, traditional and experimental, opening your minds to new discoveries. With an exhibition programme rotating on a bi-monthly basis, M/Gallery will endeavour to introduce you to some of the most exciting art in Riga. From painting to analogue photography to sculpture, prints and posters, we will be presenting a range of mediums on offer, all within an affordable price range, to view in person and virtually.



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