

Event Horizon
BERG Contemporary

Hulda Stefánsdóttir, Marie Søndergaard Lolk and Sigrid Sandström all work within the medium of painting, each in their own respective way. Although their work may indicate a landscape, an object or a structure, their work process always entails a wilful distortion of a known reality, a dishevelment of insignia that carefully places them in the world of abstraction. Their exhibition builds on the ideas of reversal, negative space and the in between, the space between surface and the underneath, foreground and background, repetition and movement of the still and borders that separate images and exhibition space.

The title *Event Horizon* refers to the definition of cosmological horizons as a boundary beyond whose events cannot affect any outside observer at all. In astronomy, it means the outermost edges of the area visible before entering a black hole. Beyond the horizon is a hole that devours any tangible substance, modifies it and turns it invisible, only leaving behind an ambiguous notion of something that perhaps was, even though their flickering shadow remnants may sometimes appear for the eye to see.

Marie Søndergaard Lolk (born in Randers, Denmark 1981):

Marie Søndergaard Lolk's works are based on a rematerialization of the medium of painting through various processes and techniques. This rematerialization effects a slowing down of our normal visual reading and - at the same time - an opening towards a kind of micro perception of things as they exist prior to their identification in more general categories. Many of her works relate to landscapes or are processed from and within particular sites and places. At times, content and

expression are brought into a more literal clash, such as when the conventional semantic meaning of words is transformed into ornament structures allowing for another perception of abstract words as actions and movements. The acrylic paint is reinvented in the paintings as plastic substance and layered material following the law of gravity just like any other object.

Marie Søndergaard Lolk is an artist who lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark. She received her MA from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts (2008). She has participated in numerous group and duo exhibitions including Galleri Susanne Ottesen, Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art, Den Frie and Kunsthall Charlottenborg in Copenhagen, Sorø Kunstmuseum, Sorø and Brandts, Odense. In 2016 Søndergaard Lolk had a solo exhibition at the Thorvaldsens Museum in Copenhagen. She received the Carnegie Art Scholarship Award (2010), The Danish Art Councils 3 Year Work Grant (2013) and the Franciska Clausen Medal (2017). Marie Søndergaard Lolk presented her first public art commission in 2017, for the chapel at The New University Hospital in Aarhus, Denmark.

Sigrid Sandström (born in Stockholm, Sweden 1970):

Sigrid Sandström's practice is engaged with reflecting on the relationship between the painter, the painting and the viewer. They display a disruption of the relationship between idea, execution and result. Sandström works primarily with painting, through which she has been exploring site as a concept as well as emotional experience. Over time, the depicted large-scale, barren and uninhabited landscapes have become more abstract. Her paintings fail to conform into categories, and continuously explore the ontological conditions and limitations of painting. The indeterminate, or un-namable, plays a central role both in Sandström's investigative work process and in relation to the viewer.

Sigrid Sandström is an artist and Professor of Fine Arts at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm. She has previously taught at Bard College,

Annandale-on-Hudson, NY; Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA; Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX and UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. She serves as Governor of Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Sandström holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Minerva Art Academy, Groningen, Netherlands (1997) and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University School of Art, USA (2001). In 2008 Sandström was a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant. Selected solo exhibitions include Frye Art Museum, Seattle; Mills College Art Museum, Oakland; Inman Gallery, Houston; Edward Thorp Gallery, New York; Anat Ebgi, Los Angeles; Galleri Gunnar Olsson, Stockholm; and Cecilia Hillström Gallery, Stockholm. Her work has been exhibited widely nationally and internationally at institutions such as the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, Austin Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Moderna Museet, and Nationalmuseum in Stockholm amongst others.

Hulda Stefánsdóttir (born in Reykjavík, Iceland 1972):

Hulda Stefánsdóttir is known for her sparse and deceptively simple paintings, where the texture of the surface becomes not only a background but a prominent feature. Her investigations in painting revolve around the subject of time and the impossibility of presenting any given moment without echoes or traces of its past. How any given moment is also, and at the same time, a memory of that which was. She has described the process behind her abstract paintings as a search for a timeless essence that also establishes a clear sense of what could only belong to the here and the now. Images are repeated, dissolved and reduced to ambiguity that stresses the instability of our perception.

Hulda Stefánsdóttir is an artist and a former Professor of Fine Art at The Iceland University of the Arts (2008 - 2016). Hulda graduated from the Department of Painting at the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts (1997) and holds a Master of Fine Art from the School of Visual Art, New York (2000). Hulda Stefánsdóttir has had numerous solo exhibitions and participated in group shows at art institutions both in Iceland and in

USA and Canada, such as The Reykjavik Art Museum, The National Gallery of Iceland and The Living Art Museum in Reykjavík, Scandinavia House in New York, The Boston Center for the Arts, Exit Art in New York and Plug-IN ICA, Winnipeg, Canada. Stefánsdóttir's works are in the public collections of the Reykjavík Art Museum, the National Gallery of Iceland and the Art Collection of the University of Iceland.