

CAJSASTINA ÅKERSTRÖM – ARTIST

The Covid-19 pandemic rearranged the agenda for Swedish singer/songwriter CajsaStina Åkerström. But not only in a negative way. On the contrary, with all live appearances cancelled from early 2020 she finally had the time to focus on a fantasy since childhood: to really try out on a possible other aspect to artistry, painting.

She reflects: “I started from zero in intuitive, playful mood, it has been a fantastic first journey.”

In June 2021 she had a first exhibition at Persona Galleri in her southeastern Sweden hometown Kalmar. The reaction was overwhelming, she sold all her first works and received all over positive reviews and media reactions both locally and domestically, including national TV. For now her focus is totally on painting.

CajsaStina paints exquisitely detailed still lifes with oil pastel crayons and pastel pencils in a technique that is both according to the schoolbook and homemade.

She uses palette knife to blend layers of colours and then the knife, her fingers and pencils as “brushes” to achieve nuances, shades and tones. The end result are still lifes that are figurative, organic and intuitive with play of light always a key factor.

She finds the motives in her immediate surroundings. Details at home, nature scenes around her countryside cottage, boats and buildings just a short walk or bicycle trip away from her small studio.



Fine Art Prints are now available of some of CajsaStina's oil pastels. Giclée prints on 308 g Hahnemühle Photo Rag. Don't hesitate to contact Jonas at Persona gallery for information: jonas@personagalleri.se



Tancy and red clover

Monica Backström's beautiful glass vase/jug plays the main role in this motif. When I arranged this still life, I felt that the vase needed to be filled with wildflowers, not cultivated ones.

Red clover takes me back to my childhood summer holidays when a beloved activity was to suck nectar from the small petals of the flowers. The tansy, a childhood companion, accompanies me nicely with its sunny yellow buttons. In the window recess is my sister Louise's beautiful little statue in burnt clay. At the front of the picture is a horse's head in smoke-colored Murano glass - a paperweight created by the Venetian master Licio Zanetti.

Near and far. Wild and created - everything harmonizes in some strange way. And in the labyrinths of memory, the gravel crunches of wild strawberry walks echo...

2025, Alt 1: 60X87, 6 000:- SEK Alt 2: 45X64, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



ALLIUM

There is something special about allium, I have loved those floating balls since I was little. I think I inherited my love for the plant from my father, who planted it here and there in the flower beds in the allotment that he took over from my grandmother in the late 1970s. In addition to being beautiful, it is also considered good for voles and other "pests." My father especially liked this helpful aspect. Now, I have it in the flower beds at home myself.

In May, those purple globes shine upon you on their tall stems every spring, spreading total visual happiness. This beautiful bulbous plant really comes into its own in Erkkitaipio Siirainen's vase, "Kasper." In the middle of the painting, a little to the right, farthest into the window recess, you can see a small burnt clay sculpture made by my sister. It is so beautiful and full of soul. For me, it is something of a primary object in the picture.

2025, 45X66, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



WILD STRAWBERRIES

The motive came on a warm September day in 2021. A dull sunlight filtered in through one of the windows at home, remembrance of the season that has just passed: the season's last specimens of yellow nasturtium and the strawberry in the bonbon jar sent greetings from all the summers of life... In the backwards writings of the book stack, with paper of different age and quality, sang people's thoughts and experiences from a whole world. The tin bowl's fine dents and irregularities echoed with memories of the blacksmith's driving hammer blow...

2024, Alt 1: 69X90, 6 500:- SEK Alt 2: 46X60, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



CONTEMPLATION

This motif came about during a day filled with all that other stuff that life also consists of besides creation. During a break in work, on my way out to the kitchen and the coffee maker, I suddenly saw the scene unfolding in one of the windows. Luckily, the camera was there, and the moment could be captured: the deep cold shadows in contrast to the intense light behind the figurine (the goddess of health Hygieia), the lush sun-warmed greenery outside the window, the small blue bowl on a yellow foot... a beautiful example of the play of chance!

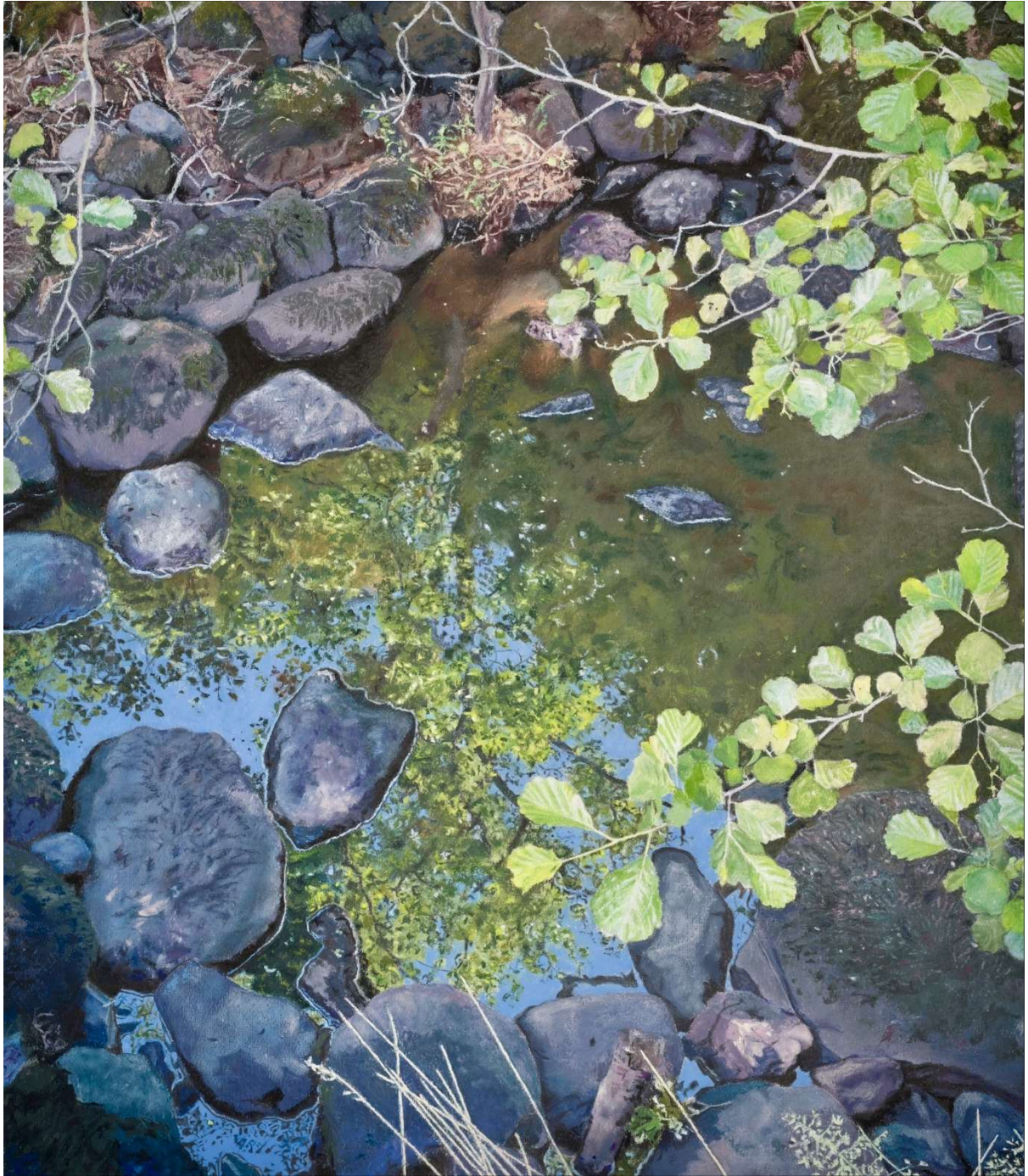
2024, 39X55, 4 500:- SEK limited edition 1-25



BLUE, GREEN AND APRICOT

In this still life, I have let the colors have a party. I found the big glass dish at a flea market and fell deeply in love with the blue color. It had to control the motive. The complementary colors yellow and orange are found in canvas, fruits, and pencils. The beautiful doily comes from the linen stash I inherited from my grandmother. On the shelf behind, you can see parts of my ever-growing glass collection. Under it are a couple of my uncle Göran's canvases rolled up (he was a loved profile in the family and a fantastic artist). All in all - for me, things are close and familiar in a world otherwise characterized by war and chaos.

2024, Alt 1: 68X88, 6 500:- SEK Alt 2: 49X63, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



THE LAST WATER

The motif is a close-up study of the old chute at the former Skräpple Kvarn. In the summer of -22, it lay almost completely dry. Just a tiny, rapidly shrinking water pool remained - as a recording eye facing the world and eternity above...

2024, 59X67, 5 500:- SEK limited edition 1-100



THE SUNBOTTLE

The yellow vase, which is the central piece in the painting, materializes the sun with its almost luminescent yellow color and shape. Finnish designer Helena Tynell gave the vase the name Solflaska (Sunbottle) when she created it over 60 years ago. The uranium glass makes the bottle "vibrate" in everything from yellow-green to bright orange. Just behind, in dark violet, stands a vase by Swedish Carl Olof Bogarp. The contrasting colors in the two vases create a positive tension in the picture and the shadows that fall over the table offer magic.

A sprig of mock orange stuck in the back vase has ended up in the partial shade, except for its flower cluster at the far end, which has received all the light. Outside the window, a mock orange shrubbery towers up. Above, the sunlight streams down through the branches of an over 200-year-old pear tree...

2023, 44X64, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



THE HONEYLIGHT

It was a very special light that late afternoon early November 2020, when the template for this painting came about. I was out picking funnel chanterelles (roligare namn: yellowfoot) in the woods near my home. Suddenly it was just there, streaming through both the crowns of the birches and the dry grass of the ground - the honeylight!

2023, Alt 1: 92X60, 6 000:- SEK Alt 2: 59X40, 4 500:- SEK limited edition 1-100



BLUE VASE WITH CALENDULAS

The meeting between the yellow-orange tones of the calendulas and the blue colour of the glass vase is the central thing in this picture. The motif touches on a visual memory I carry deep in my mind; my beloved grandmother (who lived a life marked by hard work and a constant lack of money) always had, when it was in season, an ultramarine blue glass vase standing on her dining room table, filled with fresh calendulas harvested from their own land. Pure beauty rooted in a deep sense of colour and form - like a visual happy pill.

2022, Alt 1: 60X85, 6 000:- SEK Alt 2: 33X47 4 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



LABORATORIUM OPTICUM

The title of the work comes from the name of the brass candlestick, designed by Marianne Gille for Reijmyre Mässingsbruk. The beauty of the small glass globe is that when the candlestick is lit, the flame in the globe is magnified, the light is refracted and diffused beautifully in the room. In my painting - with the lights off - other exciting things happen in the orb: the view from the window bends, twists, and turns upside down - the wonder of optics!

The pears and grapes are homegrown. Signe Persson-Melin has made the beautiful glass bowl they are in. I love the colors of these grapes - the red stems with shades of deep cerise pink to orange and deep burgundy, as well as the frosty surface of the black-red-blue berries.

2022, 49X59, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



BLACK BERRIES IN A GREEN GRAPPONIA

"Here I immediately thought I found an interesting composition of colors and materials. The lime green plums, the red-yellow tea, the blackberries, and not least the glass designer Nanny Still's nice green vase, all in sensual interaction with my work tools, the pencils and the oil pastel crayons. The mirror in the background reproduces part of the scenery. I spent a lot of time getting to it, took hundreds of photos, in the end the exact combination was there."

2021, 54 X 82, 5 500:- SEK limited edition 1-100



INDIAN CRESS

"Indian cress is my favorite flower. The scent, the crunchiness of leaves and stems, the flowers countless shades of everything from dark red, orange to the lightest pastel yellow. It is as if the petals possess an inner light, especially the fiery red flowers - which can be seen in the painting - they seem to glow in the dark. In English the flower is generally called nasturtium and from abroad I have sometimes received questions about the name. But I simply think it sounds more beautiful, more imaginative with "Indian Cress"."

2021, Alt 1: 46X64, 5 000:- SEK Alt 2: 34X48, 4 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



SEPTEMBER BLUES

"It is a special time in Sweden when summer turn into autumn. A melancholy ensues, the light changes, the shadows grow longer. It can be seen in the painting. Blue is the color of melancholy for me, so here too. By 2020, when the painting came into being, my beloved dog had just passed away, eleven years old. It was on so many levels the end of an era to me. I wanted to catch it in a painting."

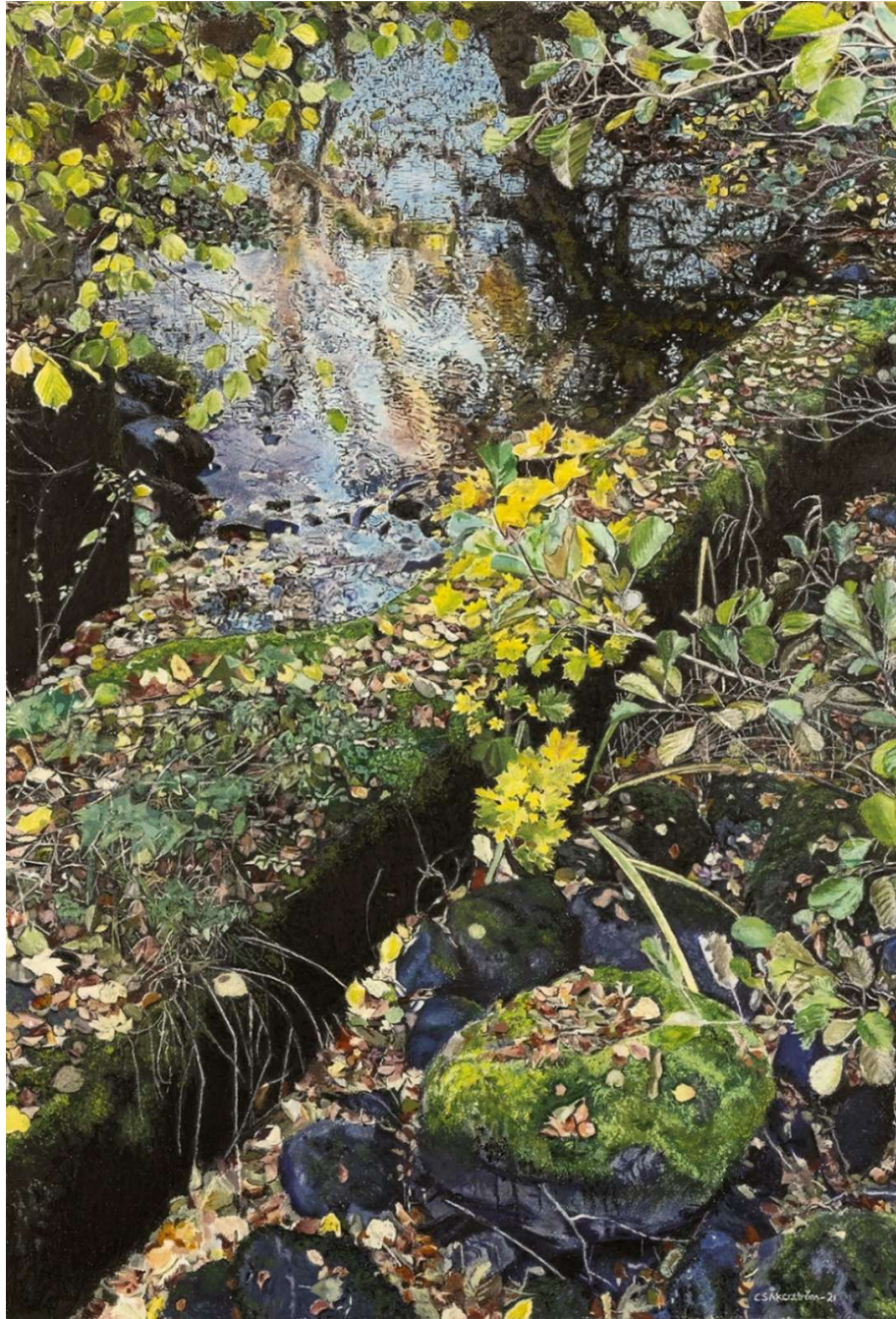
2020, Alt 1: 49X75, 5 500:- SEK limited edition 1-25 Alt 2: 43X66, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



A SUMMER AFTERNOON IN JULY

"This was the first painting where I went away from my imagination and started from reality. I had taken many pictures of scenes in the area around me with my mobile camera, when I was suddenly totally captivated by something very close to me. Delayed for a meeting, I saw how the evening sun suddenly fell through the window onto my work table. A place so close to me in everyday life got a whole new luster. Everything on the table suddenly began to come alive. I realized the optical effects in the contrast between light and dark, between shadow and day. A magic in the scene that came as out of nowhere, a perfect still life. All this aroused a passion to work with glass in the pictures, something that has since become constant."

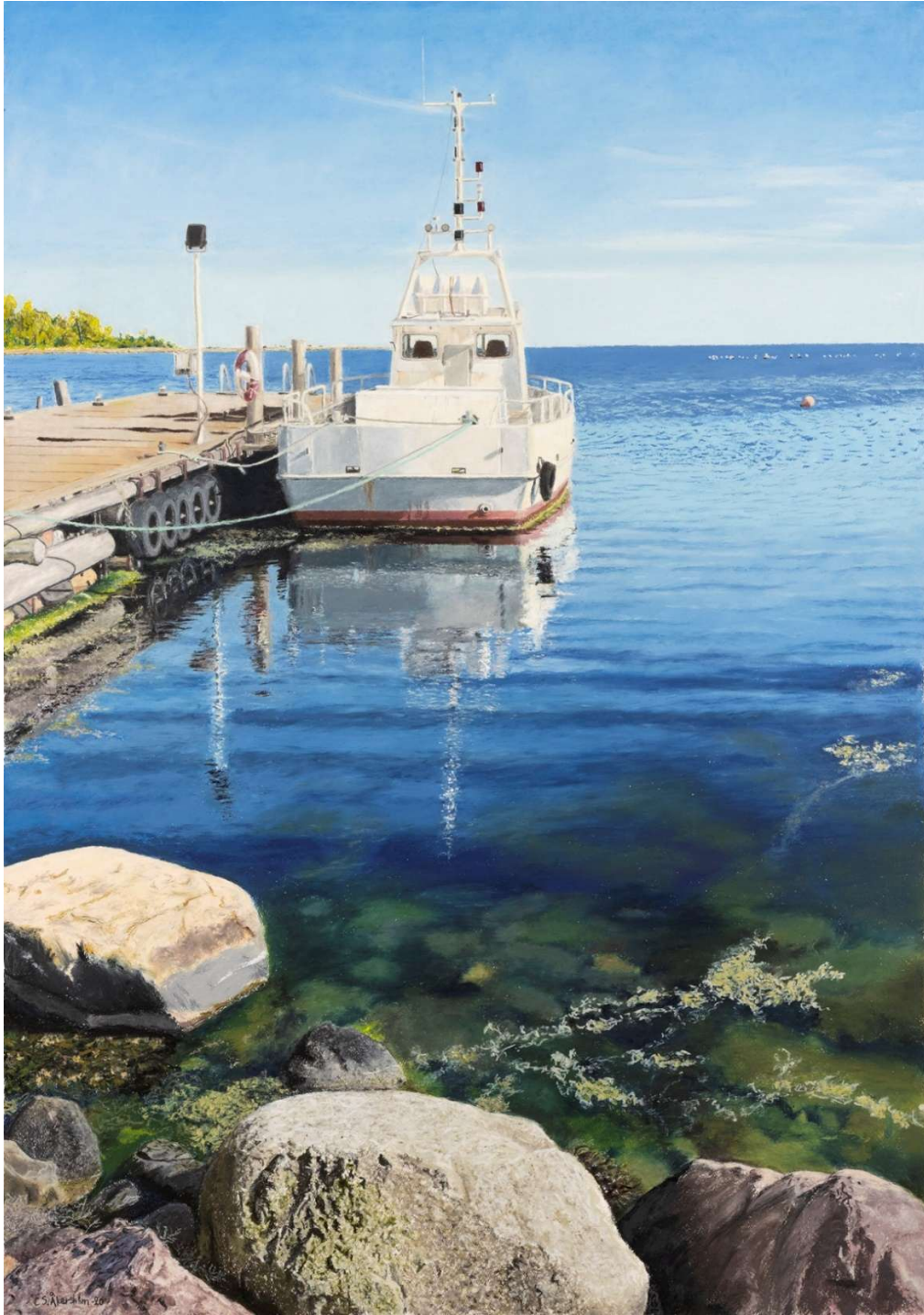
2020, Alt 1: 54X69, 5 500:- SEK limited edition 1-25 Alt 2: 48X62, 5 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



THE OLD WATERMILL

"The motif shows the remains of the gutter at Skräpple mill, in Halltorpsån, just over 30 km south of the city of Kalmar. The mill was built in 1848, under Värnanäs Estate, and demolished in the early 1980s. In it the flour was ground for the farmers in the area. I pass the remains of the mill almost daily and think it is a very beautiful and meditative place. Many thoughts and images are born in me. Especially some summer and autumn days, when the light filters down beautifully through the foliage on the alders that grow around the old mill."

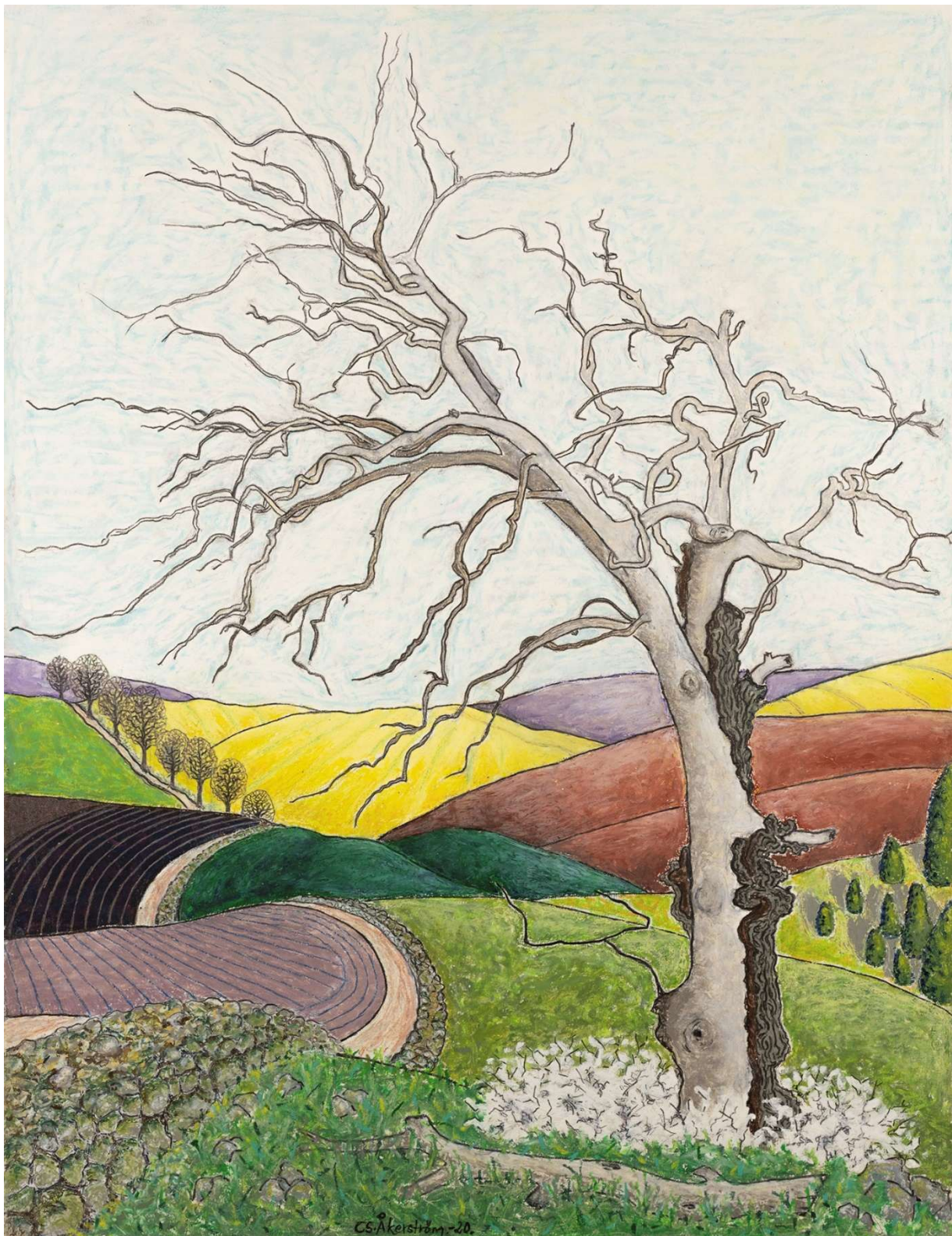
2021, Alt 1: 48X69, 5 500:- Alt 2: 31X45, 4 000:- SEK limited edition 1-100



SAFE HARBOUR

"Kolboda harbor is a breathing hole about a mile from where I live. The photo/model for the painting was taken on a cloudless day in the summer of 2020, when the sky was extremely clear and blue. Throughout the spring and summer of 2020 I experienced that the sky was bluer than it has been for a very, very long time. The haze was gone. Probably a factor connected to hardly no airplanes due to Covid 19. The boat on the painting captures the feeling of lightness/freedom".

2020, Alt 1: 53X75, 5 500:- SEK limited edition 1-25, Alt 2: 48X67 5 000:- limited edition 1-100



LANDMARK I

2020, 25 X 32, limited edition (1-25), 3 000:- SEK



LANDMARK II

2020, 25 X 32, limited edition (1-25), 3 000:- SEK