

PREVIEW CATALOGUE 2022

PILPOCZUK
GALLERY

JULIA MEDYŃSKA

QUEEN'S PARADISE

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Julia Medyńska (1981)

Julia Medyńska was born in Gdańsk (PL) in 1981. Her family moved to West Berlin in 1985. After finishing highschool, Medyńska decided to move to New York, where she received her BA from Columbia University in 2013. In 2015, she earned her MFA at Columbia University (School of the Arts). Medyńska has participated in several international solo and group exhibitions and has received multiple awards. She is a two-time recipient of The Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant (2020 and 2021). She moved back from New York to her birth country Poland in 2020. She lives and works in the small city of Międzyrzecz. Medyńska is currently working on solo shows, with international galleries such as Galeria ATC, Tenerife, Spain; Office Space Gallery, Salt Lake City, USA; as well as Pilipczuk Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark. We are very excited to exhibit her first Scandinavian solo show in January 2022.

Medyńska explores the psychology of the individual. Her inspiration and technique originate from old Renaissance and Baroque master painters. When painting, Medyńska doesn't have a specific painter from the past in mind, but moves with liberty and confidence between the Old Masters, using her individual and contemporary take on the classical styles and techniques.

For Medyńska's first solo exhibition in Scandinavia, she is revealing fifteen new oil paintings as well as 6 unique drawings, created especially to fit within the gallery space of Pilipczuk Gallery. The solo exhibition, named *Queen's Paradise*, is a humorist yet critical comment on the abuse of power and on the result of placing unfit rulers on the throne. Well, or so it may appear at first glance. On one hand, Medyńska portrays well known archetypes of mythical tales, people of social rank, power, and opulence. On the other hand, the paintings hide dark secrets that are yet to be revealed.

Medyńska has created a narrative in her exhibition, a fairy tale that is to be explored. She invites the audience to take a closer look at the dystopian paradise that the ruling queen La Reina has created. Due to the queen's misguided reign, it has become a wasteland. In her portrait, the queen proudly possesses her own beauty to hide her tragic truth, while in the back of her, we see a fallen kingdom. In La Reina's empire reside various characters, which are portrayed in the other paintings of the exhibition. *The Fool*, inspired by the classical Dutch maid paintings, is La Reina's advisor and most likely the smartest person, and she is portrayed in Medyńska's narrative as a woman. Medyńska also introduces the viewer to other quirky characters of the court, like the queen's daughter *La Principessa*, *The Goddess*, and *The Seduction*:

"They are my actors: Something hidden about them is to be revealed. The Queen, La Reina, holds an exotic bird, a prized possession and a symbol of wealth and power. It is the only colorful element in the painting. The rest speaks to the loss of power. Her daughter is shown smiling, seemingly a normal and happy princess—but we see a dead bird hanging from her hand." – Julia Medyńska

All paintings in the exhibition are meant to be read together, to combine into a narrative. Yet, that narrative is open for anyone to complete as they see fit. It can be read in any order, and it is open to multiple interpretations, with many different endings.

Queen's Paradise is split into two parts. The upstairs of the gallery shows paintings in cool tones like blues, greys, and greens, as it represents a dystopian outdoor life. Then, traveling downstairs to the hidden room of the gallery, Medyńska works with warmer tones like reds and golds, painting still lifes and portraits. This creates an experience where the audience travels from the outdoors of the kingdom to the indoors.

In art history, a still life can celebrate a subject's wealth, but it also reminds us of the end of our existence here on earth. In *Queen's Paradise*, the still lifes serve as a subtext to the portraits. They are allegories. Medyńska's work *The Harvest*, with the motif of a gold chalice filled with luscious grapes, looks like an ode to victory. Yet the chalice is also filled with a frog— a biblical symbol of imminent destruction and decay:

"I have always been interested in the duality, where the idea of beautiful display and ugly truth coexist. I hope to give two sides to the story. Just look at the title of the show." – Julia Medyńska



Julia Medyńska,
La Reina, 2021, Oil on
linen, 150 x 120 cm
49.000 DKK



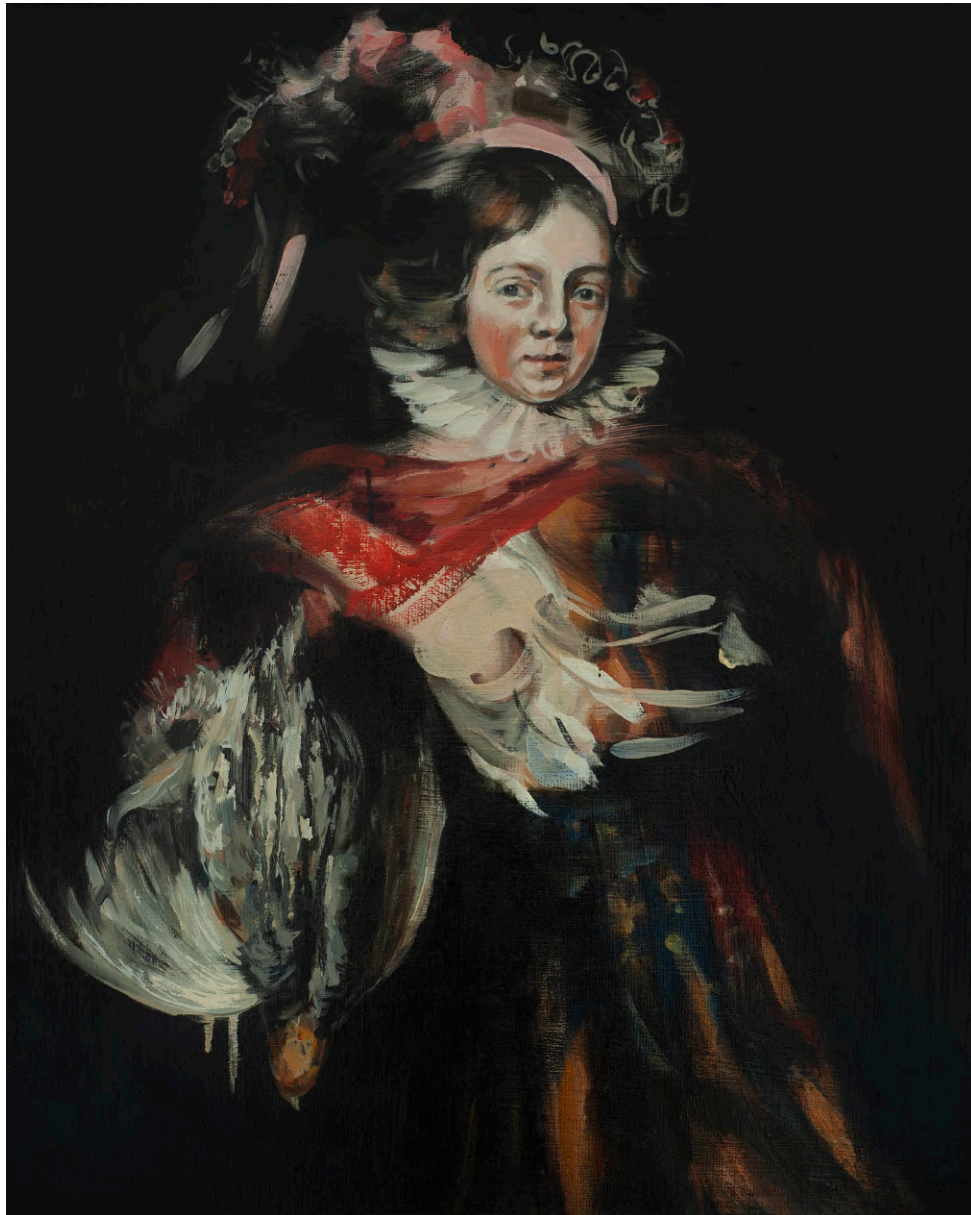
Julia Medyńska,
Burning Cockatoo, 2021,
Oil on linen, 110 x 80 cm
29.500 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Snake, 2021-22, Oil
on linen, 110 x 80 cm
29.500 DKK



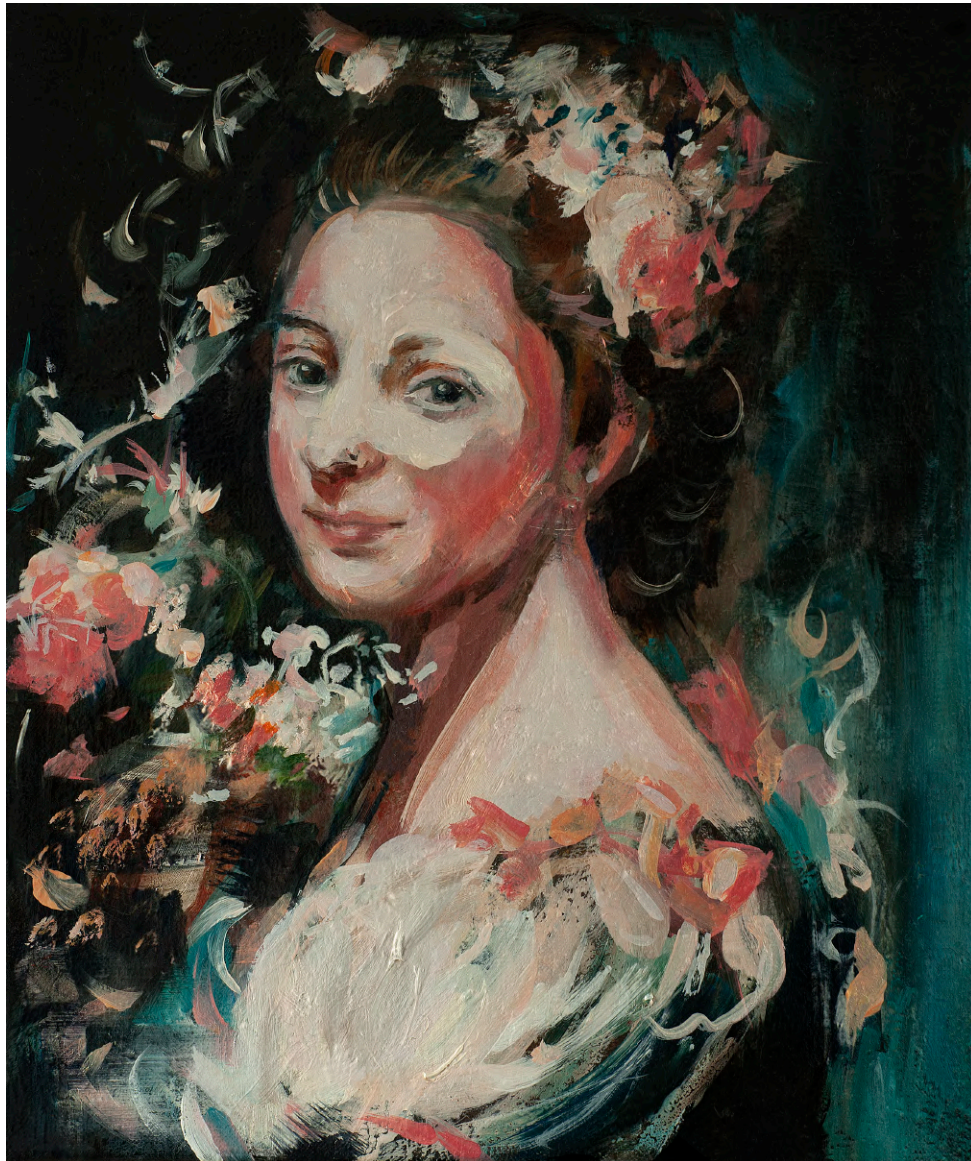
Julia Medyńska,
Fortune Teller, 2021, Oil
on linen, 50 x 40 cm
14.750 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
La Principessa, 2022, Oil
on linen, 75 x 60 cm
21.300 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Seduction, 2021-22,
Oil on linen, 50 x 40 cm
16.400 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Goddess, 2021, Oil
on linen, 31 x 26 cm
11.500 DKK



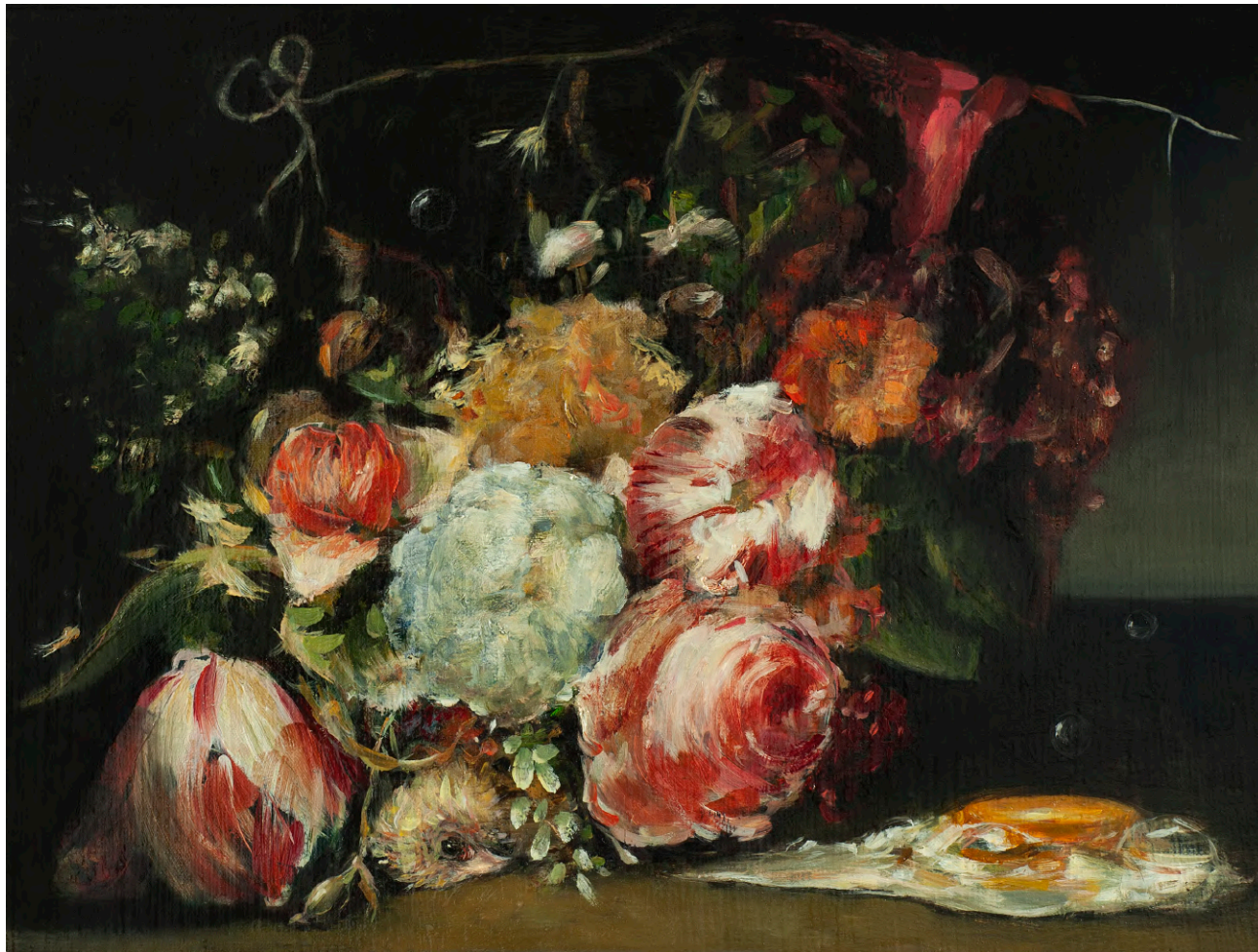
Julia Medyńska,
The Fool, 2021, Oil on
linen, 31 x 26 cm
11.500 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Smile, 2021, Oil on
linen, 31 x 26 cm
9.800 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
Still Life With Mouse, 2021,
Oil on linen, 31 x 26 cm
11.500 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
Still Life With Egg, 2021,
Oil on linen, 30 x 40 cm
13.000 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
Judgement Day, 2021, Oil
on linen, 75 x 60 cm
21.300 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Feast, 2021, Oil on
linen, 75 x 60 cm
21.300 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Harvest, 2021, Oil
on linen, 50 x 40 cm
Sold



Julia Medyńska,
Still Life With Poultry, 2021,
Oil on linen, 50 x 40 cm
14.750 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Bath Hours, 2021,
Pencil on paper (Framed)
6.000 DKK

Julia Medyńska,
Thought of my Mother,
2021, Pencil on paper
(Framed)
6.000 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
The Longing, 2021, Pencil
on paper (Framed)
6.000 DKK

Julia Medyńska,
Tea With the Queen, 2021,
Pencil on paper (Framed)
6.000 DKK



Julia Medyńska,
Mother's Thoughts, 2021,
Pencil on paper (Framed)
6.000 DKK

Julia Medyńska,
Morning Celebration, 2021,
Pencil on paper (Framed)
6.000 DKK