

# SASKIA NEUMAN GALLERY

Edit Sihlberg (b.1989)

Windings

27.03 – 03.05.2025

Edit Sihlberg presents a world imbued with contradictions. Serenity and compassion are marred by humor and escapism; all of which capture the inherent nature of time through each vibrant brushstroke. Sihlberg's work subtly examines the passage of time, always imprinted by the artist's own gaze. Each object and symbol carries references to memory, tradition and history — expressing movement and an unconscious glimpse of something lost, never fully accessible. The visual language is voyeuristic, an intimate yet distant purview, where the observer is invited to penetrate the inner workings of the painting. The juxtaposition of distance and closeness create a balance in the work, resulting in a continuous flow, allowing the paintings to be both tranquil and vibrating.

Throughout Sihlberg's work historical and contemporary expressions meet in an ongoing dialogue. In the new series of paintings, still-life is a recurring theme. In the works *Amarant*, *Hjulspår*, *Fossil and Shell*, and *Fossil and Sulfur*, objects such as flowers, shells, and glass are prominent. The colors are sometimes muted, sometimes energetic, as flowers stand in vases, often dropping, falling to the surface.

In the Western art historical canon still-life can be traced back to antiquity, but it spread more widely in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Europe. The early still-life paintings were often part of larger compositions, frequently incorporated into religious, allegorical, and historical paintings. In the Netherlands during the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, artists began to appreciate the symbolic potential of everyday objects. These works often served as symbols of wealth, mortality or the transience of life, reflecting the era's concern with *vanitas* — reminders of the inevitability of death and the fleeting nature of material objects.

In Edit Sihlberg's paintings, the various objects move away from the recognizable and make room for the ability of color to create form. The abstract movements create suggestive and misty shapes that resemble dreamlike scenarios and memories. There is a gesture toward an impressionistic tradition, seen in Berthe Morisot's soft and lively brushstrokes, as well as a post-impressionistic allusion to subjectivity and emotional intensity through form and color.

Edit Sihlberg holds an MFA at the Royal Academy of Stockholm. In 2022, Sihlberg was awarded the Hilding Linnqvist Prize and the Anna-Lisa Thomson Scholarship for Art, and that same year, her work was presented at Uppsala Art Museum. Her work has also been featured in several institutional group exhibitions: *Sparks of Joy* at Körsbärgården, *Art on the Road* by the Swedish Arts Council, and *I Follow the Sun* at Artipelag in 2024. This is Sihlberg's first solo exhibition at Saskia Neuman Gallery.