

Henrik Aa. Uldalen

Henrik Aa. Uldalen (b. 1986, South Korea) was raised in Norway and spent time in Barcelona, Florence and Mexico City before moving to England in 2015. Uldalen is a self-taught expressionist artist. Developing his style and technique for over 12 years, his creative production combines contemporary edge through abstract impasto with the traditional, through classic, figurative painting.



Uldalen examines the darker sides of life, yet this nihilism, longing and loneliness are juxtaposed by a fragile beauty in his works. The artist's practice is self-reflexive such that painting helps Uldalen to better understand himself, expressing, "I paint because I need to paint. I have always had things in my life that I need to work out, and I've found that the best way is to take it out in the studio." In turn, his works are conceived as self-portraits projected onto models. The pieces themselves are not overtly narrative; rather, he invites the viewer to build their own, perhaps through introspection.

Uldalen chooses to focus instead on emotional and metaphysical content through his figuration. A prevailing motif of eyes that are covered, shut, and smudged, for example, is symbolic of struggle and inner turmoil. Yet at the same time, Uldalen conveys a beautiful sense of corporeality and physicality through his figures. The result: pieces that truly express body and soul.

As part of his daily routine, Uldalen begins with a brief sketch to catalyse his artistic endeavour. The artist has described the creation of his work taking place with "no limitations," simply "pure expression." Uldalen's striking application of paint creates dream or limbo-like, surrealist atmospheres which add a poignancy to his canvases.

Uldalen has been exhibited globally with recent solo shows in cities such as Seoul, New York, London, Oslo, Los Angeles, and Skagen. The existentialist nature of Uldalen's emotive, moody, naturalistic paintings feels like a breath of fresh air in a contemporary art world that so often showcases abstraction and conceptualism.

Henrik Aa. Uldalen CV

b. 1986 - South Korea

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *Paradosis*, JD Malat Gallery, New York, USA
- 2021 *Love in Exile*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 *Lethe*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 *Metanoia* JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2016 *Rapture*, Last Rites Gallery, NY, USA
- 2014 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA
- 2011 *Galerie Contour*, Skagen, Denmark
- 2010 Galleri Ramfjord, Oslo Norway

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *Lost/ Found*, Whitestone Gallery, Seoul, Korea
- 2025 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2025 *Portraits: Looking Through The Looking Glass* JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 *Realism: MEAM*, European Museum of Modern Art, Barcelona, Spain
- 2024 *Here & Now*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 *Journeys – On Paper*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2021 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Summer Group Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *The Contemporary Human Condition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2017 *Supersonic Invitational*, Spoke Art, San Francisco CA, USA

- 2016 Beinart Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2016 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2015 *Les Petit Fours*, Friends of Leon Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2015 *Unfurl*, Gallery 1261, Denver, USA
2015 *Platinum Blend*, Modern Eden Gallery, San Francisco, USA
2015 *20 Years Under The influence of Juxtapoz*, Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA
2015 *The Moleskine Project 4*, Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco CA, USA
2014 *LA Art Show*, Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA
2014 *LA Art Show*, Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles CA, USA
2014 Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles CA, USA
2013 *Art Collector Starter Kit*, Corey Helford Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA
2013 *Contemporary Realism*, Gallery 1261, Denver, USA
2013 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA
2012 Galleri Ramfjord, Oslo, Norway
2012 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA
2012 *Beautiful Maladies*, NOoSPHERE Arts Centre, New York, USA.

Art Fairs

- 2021 *Tezos Booth*, Art Basel, Miami
2019 *Contemporary Istanbul*, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
2019 *Seattle Art Fair*, JD Malat Gallery, Seattle WA, USA
2019 *ZONA MACO*, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico
2018 *Art on Paper*, Spoke Art, New York, USA
2015 *Scope Art Show*, Gallery Ramfjord, NY, USA
2014 *Scope Art Fair*, Arcadia Contemporary, NY, USA

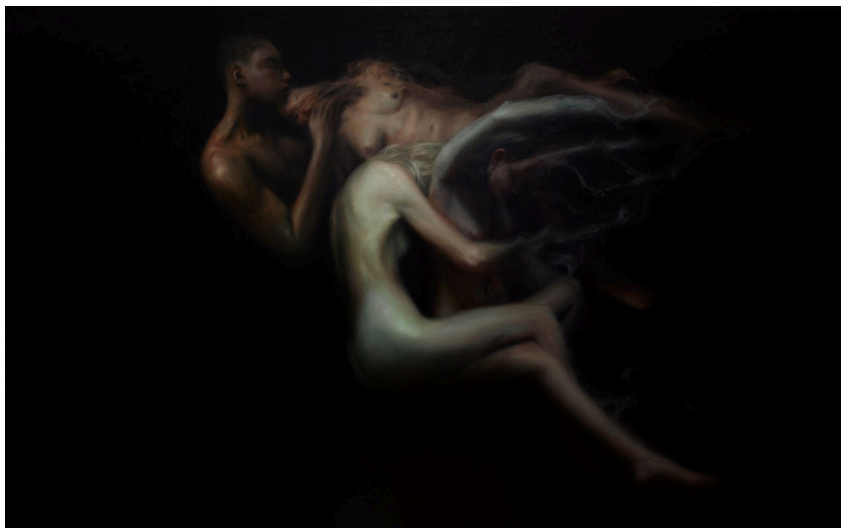
Residencies

- 2020 *Arthouse Pani*, Museo de Arte de Querétaro, Tequisquiapan, Mexico

Selected Artworks



Henrik Uldalen
Cascade, 2022
Oil on linen
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in
180 x 120 cm



Henrik Uldalen
Swept, 2022
Oil on linen
70 7/8 x 118 1/8 in
180 x 300 cm