

## Henrik Aa. Uldalen

Henrik Aa. Uldalen was born in South Korea in 1986 and raised in Norway. He then spent time in Barcelona, Florence and Mexico City, before moving to England in 2015. Henrik is a self-taught, expressionist artist, whose creative production revolves around classic figurative painting.



Developed for over 15 years, his technique is placed together with abstract impasto, presented in a contemporary manner. Henrik examines the dark side of life, nihilism, existentialism, longing and loneliness, juxtaposed with fragile beauty. The artist's practice helps him grasp his entity, 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." Though a figurative painter, his focus has always been the emotional and metaphysical content rather than narratives, his works being self-portraits projected onto models. This visual stimulus is deeply ingrained in his production.

Moreover, the prevailing motif of covered or shut eyes, is symbolic of the atmospheres, struggles, and inner turmoil rather than the physical conceivable world. As part of his daily routine, Henrik begins with a brief sketch, allowing him to release his artistic endeavour. Using oil paint as his main medium, the artist interprets his own photography. The poignancy of his canvases, achieved through the striking application of the paint, creates atmospheres often presented in a dream or limbo-like state, with elements of surrealism. The existentialist nature of his realist paintings appears like a breath of fresh air in a contemporary art world saturated with abstraction and conceptualism. Indeed, Uldalen leaves the viewer to build a narrative of his works. The artist has described the creation of his work taking place with 'no limitations, pure expression', a rare approach combining both gesture and intellect, two actions never before synchronised.

For Henrik, social media has been a significant part of his career as it has allowed him to reach his prominence. Taking Instagram by storm, the artist has reached a remarkable following since 2012. Being part of a vast international community of artists online, Henrik shares inspiration and interacts with others across the globe. This has given him the freedom to pursue his unique and extraordinary concepts, striving away from the pressures of producing commercial work.

Selected Artworks



Henrik Uldalen  
*Pour*, 2022  
Oil on linen  
70  $\frac{7}{8}$  x 47  $\frac{1}{4}$  in  
180 x 120 cm



Henrik Uldalen  
*Spill*, 2022  
Oil on linen  
70  $\frac{7}{8}$  x 47  $\frac{1}{4}$  in  
180 x 120 cm

**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**

- 2024 *Here & Now*, JD Malat Gallery, 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