

Birgir Snæbjörn Birgisson
Heidi Lampenius
Miikka Vaskola

Louder Than Bombs
May 3 - June 15 2019

Curator: Mika Hannula

Louder Than Bombs is a group exhibition by three painters who engage closely as a group but who all work individually. The theme of the show is silence. This is then silence as something that opens up – not closes down or hides away. The sense and sensibility of silence as a way to create room for something that is yet not there, something that is about to emerge.

It is a silence that is generated and maintained in order to provide time and space for the other to enter and to engage, saying: please, please, you first, I will listen, and listen with care and carefulness. It is an invitation, both for the artist's situated gestures and especially for the viewers, to participate in a visual anticipation and experience that brings together and brings about a notion of togetherness that is not forced, but felt for.

Louder Than Bombs is the effect that grows out of a painting show in which all works are done for this site and this show, in which all works relate to each other but are individuals. The set-up is rather minimal and quiet, trusting the notion that less is more. It is a group show that connects the dots between the private and the public, the personal and the general by linking memories of the past with the vision of a future of how to be and behave together.

Seeing with and being both in and through a particular sense of time and place, you have the slightest of the slightest touch of color and light in the over-imposed paintings by Birgir Snæbjörn Birgisson, you have the cryptic but intensively clear vast skylines of Miikka Vaskola, and you have the porous and playful touch in the canvases of Heidi Lampenius – altogether coming together as a whole that is more, much more than a sum of its parts.

It is silence as an embrace, a quiet but willful willingness to risk the opening up for something we sense that we crave for but don't know what it is. This type of a silence is active, not passive, it is not esoteric, not mystical but stands for nearness, face-to-face consultations and also confrontations that do not suffocate but allow us to go deeper into the matters that really do matter – matters that are defined by this intertwined dual notion: 1) there is nothing wrong with being kind and 2) we should trust the nowadays often somehow lost notion that we are able to rely on the kindness of strangers.

Mika Hannula