

California Dreaming

FROM SWEDEN TO LA

July 7th-13th 2023
Opening July 7th
5-8 pm

“We treat desire as a problem to be solved, address what desire is for and focus on that something and how to acquire it rather than on the nature and the sensation of desire, though often it is the distance between us and the object of desire that fills the space in between with the blue of longing. I wonder sometimes whether with a slight adjustment of perspective it could be cherished as a sensation on its own terms, since it is as inherent to the human condition as blue is to distance?” (Rebeca Solnit, A field guide to getting lost).

California Dreaming brings together five visual artists based in Stockholm, Sweden, who have individually responded to the idea of California; with all the desires and dreams shrouded in its name. The work has taken different routes; an internal mapping of sites of interests, an exploration of the dreams and magic created and exported from the area, reflections on current events and a desire to create change, an urge to let the viewer, however different from yourself, be mirrored in the work, and an exploration in shape and material of the immutable bonds between humanity, nature, and industrialization. The artworks have become the vessels for each artist to use their individual interests and expressions to travel into this idea of California. And so, this exhibition presents an array of responses to the desire, distance, and idea of a place well known through film, music, and arts, but unknown on its own terms.

California Dreaming

FROM SWEDEN TO LA

Petter Kreuger

Petter Kreuger works mostly with paintings and dioramas in the form of small sculptures in a box sealed with protective glass. "To make art is to protect the soul from the overwhelming world that is difficult to handle", he says. Where there is narrative, stories are sometimes told with a laugh aimed at the seriousness in the main theme of the diorama. His studio is located in the suburb of Stockholm. Besides building dioramas Petter Kreuger is sculpting, drawing, painting and making Giclée prints. He has exhibited in Germany, Australia, Luxembourg and in several places in Sweden.

In making of California dreaming suite Petter tried to set himself in the dream to make it in California and was instantly listening to RHCP albums referred to that. "Middleaged man from Sweden dreams of silver screen-quotaion and if you want this kind of dreams its Californication" The paintings are named and made after Petters imagination of the specific sights. His goal during the trip is to visit those places to see if they perform to his imaginations.

Susanne Lund Pangrazio

Susanne Lund Pangrazio holds an MFA from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (2013) and a BA (Hons) with a major in Global Studies from the University of Gothenburg (2010). She has exhibited work in solo- and group shows in Sweden and internationally in galleries such as Gallery70, Albania; Arusha Gallery, UK; Lapua Art Museum; Finland and Alma Löv Museum, Sweden. Her work can be found in various public and private collections.

In her practice, she is interested in occupying the space between the real and the imaginary and exploring the vague boundaries between memories and fantasies. Her work ruminates on the transient and the need to live with one part of yourself in a magical reality to process events in the physical world that drastically affects us.

California Dreaming

FROM SWEDEN TO LA

Stina Velten

Stina-M Velten is a figurative artist with training from Norway and Florence. Her method is based on classic, naturalistic portraits. It is in this expression that mysticism and power are created. She often continues working on the portrait and builds them into life sizes. This way the sculptures are unique and renews the concept of classical sculpture.

Recurring themes in her work are wonder and sorrow, introspective reflections, mixed with the will and power to create change. She draws inspiration from people she meets and current events in the world today.

Amanuelabiy

Amanuelabiy, is a Stockholm-based multidisciplinary artist whose work practice shifts between sculpture, painting, and video. His works are mainly inspired and defined by contrast and diversity. A constant motivation for the artist is the blend of materials and forms- such as organic and geometrical forms but with a broad perspective.

His artistic enthusiasms explore our environment and social subject matters with a focus on the interconnection and contrary between humanity, nature, and industrialization.

Jenny Överfors

Jenny Överfors is a Swedish figurative and multidisciplinary artist with a bachelor's degree in ceramic and glass from University College of Arts in Stockholm (2022). Beginning her career in the ceramic field she now uses multiple mediums to create sculptures and prints working mostly with large installations. Her work focuses on interpersonal relationships, existence and shifting perspectives into different realities using our own as a reference to build new ones. Her artistry merges the digital and analog world both practically and figuratively.