

SVANTE

[IN THE SPACES BETWEEN]

KASIA  RUTA

Introduction and
Artist Biography



Introduction

Welcome to *In The Spaces Between* – an exhibition that invites you to step into the absorbing realms of creativity and self-discovery. This collection of paintings is not a finite destination, but rather a snapshot of an ongoing journey.

Life is marked by moments when we feel like shadows of our former selves. Whilst these moments can bear negative connotations, they also have enormous transformative potential. This exhibition encompasses the evolving paths we all navigate through life's myriad experiences, from the mundane to the extraordinary.

Our instinctive reactions often contrast with our reflective thoughts, and true art emerges when we relinquish control. Writing can be a conduit, offering a glimpse into an inner world. Thoughts and emotions can be unshackled and help us to break free from the cast. If writing is like turning on a tap to begin the flow, painting is akin to opening the floodgates and shattering the dam.

This exhibition spans the three years from 2020 to 2023 and features six pieces from the collection *In The Spaces Between* and six from a new series entitled *Hell Is Other People*, inspired by Jean-Paul Sartre's insights, and most notably the play *No Exit*. Each artwork has a genesis, a thought, an idea, a reflection, a sentiment that demands expression. Messages are transcribed direct from the amygdala onto the canvas, igniting a dance between the conscious and unconscious self. Some of the themes explored herein are introspective, others more exuberant, but all embody the very same creative process – a process that urges you to explore the interstitial spaces where art, emotion, and self intertwine.

In the great paradox of time, everything occurs in between. The present connects a non-existent past and an unrealized future.

The only question now is, where shall we go from here?

The Paintings

A barrage of broad powerful brush strokes, scratches and gouges, dashes of charcoal and layer upon layer of thickly applied oil paint, create a sense of immediacy which is both raw and inescapable.

Heavily influenced by the psychoanalytical studies of Daniel Kahneman, Svante's work exposes the interplay between thinking systems one and two. The first layer is often comprised entirely of a written streaming of subconscious, a technique developed to enable the freeing of the mind and overcome the intimidation inherent in the blank canvas.

Both journey of self-exploration and an observation of the contemporary human condition, reoccurring themes include those of love and loss, yearning and passion, climate change and conflict, hope and despair.

Included works from the series

In The Spaces Between

La Guerre Des Mondes

80 cm x 60 cm oil and charcoal on canvas, 2022

Enmeshed

150 cm x 120 cm oil on canvas, 2022

Visions Of Edita Part One

150 cm x 120 cm oil on canvas, 2022

Nymphs

150 cm x 120 cm oil on canvas, 2022

Visions Of Edita Part Two

150 cm x 120 cm oil on canvas, 2022

Cold Underfoot

80 cm x 60 cm oil and charcoal on canvas, 2022

Included works from the series

Hell Is Other People

Extraktion

150 cm x 150 cm oil on canvas, 2023

Automaton

150 cm x 150 cm oil on canvas, 2023

Amongst The Rushes And The Chaste

150 cm x 150 cm oil on canvas, 2023

The Fanfare Of The Broken Lines

150 cm x 150 cm oil on canvas, 2023

Nautilus

150 cm x 150 cm oil on canvas, 2023

Harrowed Man

150 cm x 120 cm oil on canvas, 2022

Biography

British artist Svante is an abstract expressionist known for his vibrant, colourful and often large-scale oil paintings.

Following the completion of his studies at the Universities of Parma and Bologna in Emilia Romagna, Svante spent time in Florence where he met Silvio Loffredo, Professor of art at the Accademia and a pupil himself of the Austrian master Oskar Kokoschka. Together with Marco Sassone these artists formed part of Svante's early influences.

Initially focusing on rapid and often obscure figurative sketches which aimed to capture the essence of the individual in the context of a given time and emotional state, Svante eventually adopted oil painting as his primary medium.

Exhibitions 2023 / 2024

POSK

London.

27 January – 9 February 2024

ŁODZ 600

Group Show curated by Waldemar Plusa, Łodz.

10 January - 10 March 2024

Berkeley Rowe Winter Reception

The London Landmark Hotel, London.

30 November 2023

SVANTE [In The Spaces Between]

55 Exhibition Road, London.

4 – 5 October 2023

XX 20 Year Anniversary Group Show

The Ivy Club, London.

19 – 27 September 2023

Le Silence Crie à Mes Oreilles

Kerridge's Bar & Grill & The Corinthia, London.

18 August 2023 – 17 August 2024

Review

"Svante's work is part of the very contemporary art scene but speaks an ancient universal language of art. The vibrant energy of the wild strokes of colour combining human features and shadows, create a world that, although not explicit and clear, touch deeply into the viewer's soul."

Mira Maylor 2023

"Fabulous work! You need a gallery like the Whitechapel with abundant space to do justice to your new work. There's DeKooning lurking in them, but they have your own stamp speaking out. Well done and go on working. Life is work, work and more work which is its own reward!"

Balraj Khanna 2022

For further information

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Pedro Almohada,

Svante in the Studio, 2023

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