#302023

HALF PAST MIDNIGHT

"Blinkered" series by Łukasz Olek
2023, Acrylic on linen canvas,
60 x 73 cm / 25" x 28"

1 500 EUR

Ready to hang, sides raw linen, signature on the back ("Łukasz Olek, Half Past Midnight, 10.2023), brass plate on the side of each panel ("Łukasz Olek, www.lukaszolek.com"). Without varnish.
Price does not include shipping costs and potential taxes and customs in country of delivery.

B L I N K E R E D

Blinkered is a section of the world seen through a photographic lens and translated into the language of abstract painting by the painter Łukasz Olek. The photographic way of presenting, based on compositional sharpness and precision and accompanied with painterly spontaneity, is an original record of reality that balances at the interface of painting and photography.

The presented works are landscapes. The heterogeneous, but at the same time distinctive scrap of space has been narrowed down to just a few pixels, and then magnified to a large-format image. The figurative is therefore reduced to its basic and most crucial formal essence.

Painting, unlike photography, gives viewers the opportunity to observe the creative process, which intentionally initiates a form of dialogue. Here, we can see large-format canvases painted over several or dozen times, with wide strips of cool and intense colours with rough and ragged edges. The alternate use of glaze and impasto reveals the following layers of the image going as far deep as its foundation. The great care with which paints have been applied to obtain spatial elements in the texture of the background brings from the works inhomogeneous, albeit intense light, which further emphasizes their vibrating colouristics. However, these subtle dissolving forms are often violently overlapped with aggressive visual effects, such as the application of a thick layer of paint with a knife, wiping or gouging.

Application of these technical measures allows the viewers to engage in aesthetic vivisection of the work and invites them to inspect the hidden details on the surface. It has the effect of dualistic perception where large-format images drawthe attention as close to the detail as possible.

The craftmanship follows the power of careful observation. The artist extracts selected elements from a scrap of reality and subjects them to deconstruction by playing with basic formal values such as size, colour or structure. The resulting works entice the viewer with their aesthetics and induce a state of visual contemplation.

I hereby invite you to this world,

Maja Tyborska, curator

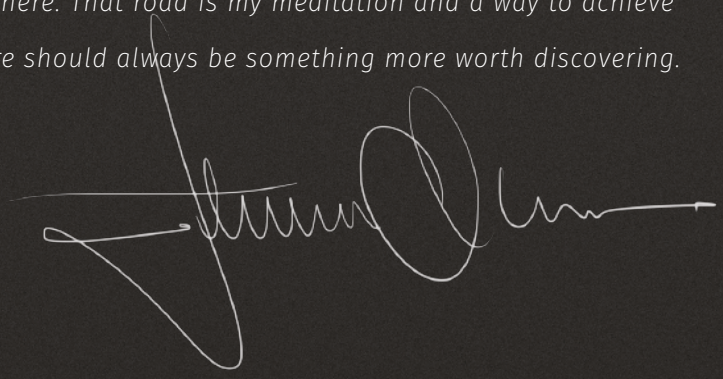
ARTIST STATEMENT

Do you like getting lost on purpose? I love it. I always prefer local roads to the highway, and they usually lead me to the most interesting places.

Usually, the landscapes I paint come to life as a result of me getting literally lost. There, at the very end of the map, in peace and solitude, I can reflect on the surrounding world. And then, back at the studio, I look for ways to transfer my impressions onto the canvas. It is always my paramount goal: to imbue the painting with the emotions, forms, colours or, sometimes, even the after-images that place had left within me.

When creating, I like to get lost in various ways, looking for and testing new media, forms and techniques. Sometimes, from that momentary chaos, things emerge which stand in opposition to the calming landscapes which have inspired me. Surreal demons appear that dwell in most of us, under the skin or deeper within.

I see art as a road that takes me somewhere. That road is my meditation and a way to achieve peace. I hope it never ends because there should always be something more worth discovering.



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