



## SIRPA SÄRKIJÄRVI

I am You

29.11.-22.12.2019

My technique is acrylic on canvas. The flowability of the paint and the free progression of the process in a moment are characteristic of my work. In my paintings, I am interested in building a picture on the canvas of a human being in its totality, with all its contradictions. As a study on a psyche, it can include a variety of characteristics of identity, personality, emotions, thinking, and relational interactions. I'm not painting portraits, but interpretations from starting points beckoning to reality, which also involve a great deal from the inner worlds of the characters I have depicted.

The energetic paintingness, the dialogue between colours, and the figurative physicality of my works are tied to the contradictions and vacillation of mental states, consciousness, and subconscious meaning. As starting points for paintings, the reasons behind human actions, needs, motives, and inconsistencies form a synthesis that an artist can try to depict in their works. An individual work is often created over a number of long methodical painting sessions. Technically, my time-demanding way of working, with dozens of pre-mixed acrylic colours, requires extensive preparation and idea development prior to the actual process of painting.

The expression, implemented horizontally with runny acrylic colours, is conveyed on the canvas in the form of interflowing free and energetic colour surfaces. The fragmentary structure of the characters, consisting of single visible movements and strokes, creates its own illusion when perceived from up close or afar. The expression of the painting can be characterised as a juxtaposition of disfigurement and chaotic tension with the sensitivity, soft fragility, inner strength, and dignity emitting from surface of the canvas. Effervescent paint as a material transfigures into premeditated and controlled images of humanity. As if the paintings were both uncontrollable and tightly controlled at the same time, like the human mind itself, a mixture of consciousness and subconsciousness.

Sirpa Särkijärvi (b. 1974) graduated from The Turku School of Fine Arts in 1997. After graduating, she has participated in numerous group exhibitions and has regularly held private exhibitions. The most recent private exhibition was in March 2019, in the Joseph Nease Gallery in Minnesota. Her works have been exhibited at the Turku Art Museum, Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art, Rovaniemi Art Museum, and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA. The works of Särkijärvi are included in the collections of the Wäinö Aaltonen Museum, the Turku and Tampere Art Museums, the Malmö Art Museum, and the Jenny and Antti Wihuri foundation. She lives and works in Turku, Finland.

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