



## ERIKA ADAMSSON

### In Salons and Parlors

8.11.–1.12.2024

In an early 20th-century salon, time feels as though it has stopped, creating a comforting atmosphere. My paintings invite viewers, who yearn for nostalgia, to step into an illusion of a better yesterday. I'm fascinated by how house museums build a narrative of history for us. In a visitor's mind, the authenticity of a museum interior is constructed from countless elements: an object in the right place, a piece of furniture that belonged to the home's original resident, and the museum educator's anecdotes about the life lived in that space. But these elements also require the right kind of light filtering through the curtains, dust floating in sunlight, or the scent of a horsehair mattress to create a believable setting. Skillful staging and lighting lead us to believe that this family truly lived this way or that way, once upon a time. With my paintings, I aim to capture that atmosphere and moment I experience when stepping into a house museum, engaging all my senses and immersing in the lives that were lived there.

I paint with oil on aluminum, seeking a momentary mood in my works that also connects to something enduring: the way light falls on a piece of furniture that has not been moved in decades. The painting, too, is both fleeting and eternal. Swift brushstrokes on a slick surface or the way gallery light reflects off the aluminum merges with more precise, slower, and representational strokes. From the mood of the past in a house museum or in my painting, one can be abruptly pulled back to the present—a person enters the room, the sound of a lawnmower drifts in from outside, or the paint itself draws you back.

Since 2023, I have participated in *Tarinoiden lehto – Sagalund: A House Museum as an Environmental Biography*, a project combining science and art at the University of Turku. This project has expanded my "house museum map" with new sites, beginning with Sagalund, the home of Kemiönsaari schoolteachers Adelé Weman and Nils-Oskar Jansson, and, through historical research, including their student Amos Anderson's villa in Söderlångvik and his house museum on Yrjönkatu. These locations feature in my recent works alongside other historical sites. Additionally, collaboration and interaction with researchers have guided my choice of source images, bringing me new insights into lives once lived.

**Erika Adamsson** (b.1973) is a painter based in Turku. She studied at the Turku Drawing School from 1992 to 1996. Adamsson has held numerous solo and group exhibitions, including solo shows at the Tikanoja Art Museum in Vaasa, Forum Box gallery in Helsinki, Makasiini Contemporary gallery in Turku, and Kimmo Pyykkö Art Museum in Kangasala. Her works are included in several private and public collections, including the Saastamoinen Foundation, Lars Swanljung Art Collection, Friends of Turku Art Museum, and the State and Helsinki City Art Collections. In 2018, she was awarded the William Thuring Prize by the Finnish Art Society. In addition to her work as an artist, Adamsson is a painting lecturer at the Turku University of Applied Sciences Art Academy.

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