

eastcontemporary

Valdrin Thaqi (b. 1994, Skënderaj; Kosovo) lives and works in Berlin and Prishtina.

Valdrin Thaqi is a visual artist graduated in Painting at the Academy of the Arts in Prishtina, Kosovo.

Realistic and dreamy, poetic and intuitive in its content, Thaqi's painting practice points out personal as well as collective memory and experience. His figurative paintings are inspired by philosophical inquiries, morals and absurdities that stem from processes, states and events observed in daily life. Often infused with passion and conflict, many of his works find their cause in the analysis of social reality, posing questions about existence and human experience. Sometimes deeply connected with the artist's life or the history of his home country Kosovo, the meaning of Thaqi's works, however, is never fixed. His paintings incite thought and prompt contemplation.

Often large in scale, his soft-edged works present scenes in rich planes of violet, lavender, mauve and purple colors carefully mixed with the shades of brown, blue and green. Made up of smokey brush strokes appearing intentionally out of focus, Thaqi's paintings somehow evoke a sense of nostalgia and longing. The depicted scenes seem to blur and fade away like a memory or old photograph, while the protagonists of his works are often distinguished by unreadable facial expressions. Operating through simple, but meaningful juxtapositions of figures and objects, Thaqi creates powerful narratives about the complex image of human psychology and existence.

Thaqi has recently exhibited at Manifesta Biennale, Prishtina (2022), Bazament, Tirana (2022) and LambdaLambdaLambda Gallery, Prishtina (2021).

EDUCATION

2009 – 2014 Odhise Paskali, Pejë, XK

2014 – 2019 University of Prishtina Faculty of Arts (Painting), Prishtina, XK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 *It's been a while since I saw a cloud in the sky*, Motrat, Prishtina, XK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Manifesta Biennale*, Prishtina, XK
Pleasures, curated by Domenico De Chirico, Bazament, Tirana, ALB
Exhibition of the Collection of Ministry of Culture, Kosovo National Gallery, Prishtina, XK
Eb-Dietzsch - Kunstpreis fur Malerei, Gera, DE
Internal, Room Five - Open Studio, Prishtina, XK
Based on a true story, National Gallery of Arts, Prishtina, XK

2021 *Art Auction*, Weserhalle, Berlin, DE
Nothing like home, LambdaLambdaLambda Gallery, Prishtina, XK
Tongue follows the toothache, Green Hill, Berlin, DE

2020 *Open Studios / Virtual Edition*, curated by Laura Olea Lopez, GlogauAir Residency, Berlin, DE

2019 *Young Artists third edition*, curated by Zeni Ballazhi, National Gallery of Arts, Prishtina, XK

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Gjon Mili, In transition/ Images between facts and fiction, curated by
Jao Ribas National Gallery of Arts, Prishtina, XK

2018 *Muslim Mulliqi/ Are our memories history?*, curated by Iara
Boubnova, National Gallery of Arts, Prishtina, XK
"Pristine Blind Date", curated by Petrit Halilaj / Elise Lammer,
Termokiss Center, Prishtina, XK

AWARDS

2022 Nominated for Stacion CCA Prishtina
2019 Young Artists Award
2018 Muslim Mulliqi Prize

RESIDENCES

2023 Nars Residency, New York, USA
2020 GlogauAir Residency, Berlin, DE