KATRIN FRIDRIKS

Born in 1974 in Reykjavík (Iceland) Lives and works in Luxembourg

"Katrin Fridriks has developed her own, uniquely personal practice: by transferring the movement and speed of her gestures to the paint, she manages to capture the very act of painting, thereby turning the picture itself into an event. The experience of working in real space-time for her performance art and land art pieces, along with her drive for technical perfection, have ultimately given rise to this 'choreographical' painting process. Yet Fridriks does not simply contemplate her own experience; she makes paintings that reproduce this shifting mode of perception for visitors to the enclosed gallery space."

Friedericke Schafer, 2014

KATRIN FRIDRIKS

Site Specific Works and Commissions

Presentation by Klaus Speidel

Art critic & curator

Katrin Fridriks is an artistic researcher who explores speed, gravity, growth and the interaction of man and nature in different media.

Her notoriety is mainly based on her paintings and painterly installations, one of which is installed at the Nautical stadium in Nîmes, but connecting with land art has also been an important element in her work. Her painterly creations are often integrated into paintscapes, site-specific installation that exceed the limits of painting traditionally conceived.

We believe that there is a fundamental tension which explains the appeal of Fridrik's works: As they are based on the exploration of fundamental experiences, Fridriks creations are immediately captivating. Having different layers that unfold over time, each new contemplation is rewarding and gives way to discoveries.

Showcased among others in Venice in 2015 during the 56th Art Biennale and at the Reykjavik Art Museum, at the Arts Center in Seoul in 2013, as well as the Liverpool Biennale in 2008, her works are in public and private collections. Fridriks has also received commissions from Pictures On Wall in 2012, Michael Goss Foundation in 2011, Ralph Lauren in 2010, Bacardi Martini, Land Rover as well as the French Ministry for Youth & Sports in 2007. Fridriks regularly participates in auctions for charity and her creations often exceed estimations at Sotheby's, Phillips or Artcurial.

MAJOR THEMES

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"You do not need to worry about any differences because you are the one who is in charge, the viewer must be able to realise that your work has to be perceived according to its specific expressive problems. You are on the dividing line between script and graphics, between the gestuality of the painter and semantics. It is a very interesting boundary but which must be accepted as such. It is a beneficial venture." (Pierre Restany in a conversation with Katrin Fridriks, 2003)

Fridriks artistic research focuses on the exploration of natural phenomena and the limits of human dexterity. Experimenting with both techniques and the strength and agility of her own body, Fridriks continuously pushes the limits of painterly expression. She has developed a set of different techniques in connection with her explorations many of which she now combines to create works of art that are unique.

Speed

Speed is one of the gravitational centres of Fridrik's work. Having performed technical and physical explorations like an athlete, she is now at a point where she is able to create an energy-loaded, complex painting in less than 2 seconds – after preparing herself and her colours for several days.



Waving Miracle - Magic Mind Detail 130 x 130 x 10 cm - 2016 acrylic on canvas



Waving Miracle - Magic Mind 130 x 130 x 10 cm - 2016 acrylic on canvas

MAJOR THEMES

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Growth

For her Growth paintings, Fridriks drops one color like a seed of paint into another and watches it grow. She thus creates fractal structures that develop according to a mix between natural chemistry and the intentions of the painter. In order to achieve this effect, the paint is custom-made for the painter by a specialized company.



Stendhal Syndrome Detail 180 x 180 x 10 cm - 2008 acrylic on canvas



Stendhal Syndrome 180 x 180 x 10 cm - 2008 acrylic on canvas

MAJOR THEMES

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Flow

Flow experiences describe particular states during creative or physical activities, where time seems to extend and happiness ensues. But since Jackson Pollock, the flow (of paint) is also considered an essential element for creations like Fridriks' that leave behind the brush. Given her will to challenge herself, it comes as no surprise that Fridriks has augmented the ontology of flow, introducing new ways to use it. Experimenting with different types of paint, with varying degrees of thickness and elective affinities as well as various techniques to apply it, she has thus been able to create expanded lines, that she lets flow in streaks that don't mix, breaks or even stretches.



Riding Awareness - Molecule Messenger $230 \times 150 \times 10 \text{ cm}$ - 2013/2014 acrylic on canvas



Riding Awareness - Noble Eye-Catcher $200 \times 220 \times 19 \text{ cm}$ - 2014 acrylic on canvas





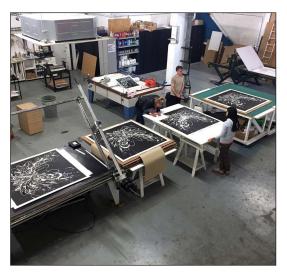
Macro Force of Nature 100 x 320 x 10 cm (triptych) - 2016 at studio

MULTIPLES

As to keep her work accessible for young collectors, Katrin Fridriks produces rare prints for which she applies the same standards as for her unique works.

With this aim in view, she has collaborated with different studios known for the high quality of their productions leading to sharp results and refined prints. Thus, Lazarides Editions, Coriander Studio, Thumbprint Editions and POW (Banksy production) have developed with the artist complex screenprints using wide range of techniques, such as 8 (for the black and white print) or 14 layers of colour (for the colour print), embossing, silk-screened gold ink, selective varnish... in order to render all the subtleties of Fridrik's works.









See more about Multiples online

SITE SPECIFIC FORMS

Conceived as ephemeral or permanent, Fridriks site specific installations take six different forms: She worked several times on outdoor sites (in Iceland) in an artistic approach close to **Land Art (fig.1)**. Since, she creates **Paintscapes (fig.2)**, assembles large **Mosaics** of paintings or creates room-spanning **Alignments (fig. 3)**. Recently, one of her works has been transferred onto a **Light Box** that spans from the groundfloor to the loft of a building. Using techniques of high-definition, Fridriks develops **Enlargements** aspects of her works to create large-scale reproductions.



Fig.1 - Energy Flow 280 x 180 x 180 cm - 2004 installation



Fig.2 - Molecular Spaces Installation 170 x 170 x 170 cm - 2008 acrylic on canvas



Fig.3 - DNA of Crayons Detail of installation 420 $\times\,150$ $\times\,10\,$ cm - 2009 acrylic on canvas



Fig.3 - Riding Awareness - Icelandic Sky Walk Installation 260 \times 360 \times 20 cm - 2014 acrylic on canvas

CHOICE OF SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

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Cabapart - Luxembourg (2016 - 2017)

For the installation conceived for the Cabapart hotel in rue Phillipe II in Luxembourg, Katrin Fridriks decided to use different media and works on different themes, each fitted for the place where they are displayed and developing logically as the guests enter the building and walk up its stairs until they reach the penthouse. The works between the first and top floor were printed on light boxes and thus provide light for a space where natural light from the outside is not available. The visitors' discovery of the space in time is a central element of this work.

The installation begins in a the narrow corridor, opposite a glass front which is open towards a garden. For this space, Fridriks decided to create a work that literally mirrors its environment, thereby enlarging the space and acknowledging the presence of the garden outside. This playful first work invites visitors to directly interact with it as they play with their own reflection. It is therefore a good introduction to the works to come, that do not directly integrate spectators. This and the other works chosen for the ground level were made at high speeds and their energy reflects this. Their energy and their playfulness makes them a perfect starting point for the guests who come in from one of the busiest shopping streets of Luxembourg.

As the installation develops over three floors, visitors are then consecutively lead through images of flow, which still contain high amounts of energy, but have a slower pace until they arrive in a calm loft space, where they find works concerned with growth, and forms reminiscent of natural development.





KF Cabapart Prototype - 2016 - Scale 1:35 KF Cabapart

CHOICE OF SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

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Palazzo Bembo (2015)

In the context of the 56th Venice Biennale of the European Cultural Center - Palazzo Bembo, the artist created an installation with a large scale painting of 180x280cm and an enormous magnifying glass hanging from the ceiling. This allowed the viewers to take a distorted look at the painting, potentially inducing nausea. The explosive black and white paintings are part of a series of paintings on the Stendhal Syndrome, so named after the French writer and which describes an intense state of excitement and uneasiness which can be induced by seeing too many works of art. Fridrik's installation in Venice was not only conceived as representing the syndrome in question. It allowed visitors to experience something close to this condition.



Perception of the Stendhal Syndrome vs Gene&Ethics Master Prism Magnifying glass $170\times D70\times 10$ cm - 2014 Gene&Ethics Master Prism $180\times 280\times 10$ cm - 2014 Installation view

See video at Palazzo Bembo - Venice





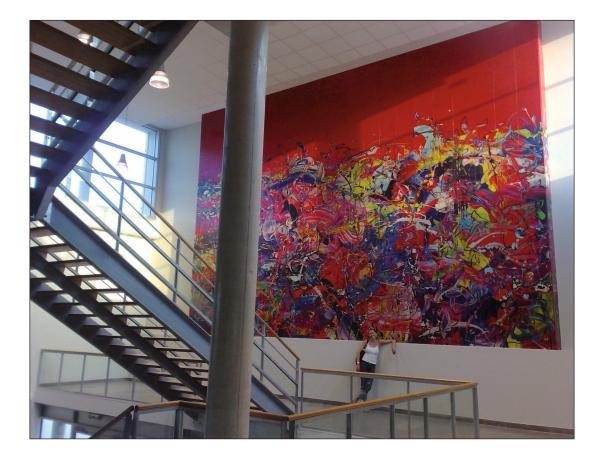
Perception of the Stendhal Syndrome View at Berlin - solo show - 2014

CHOICE OF SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

3/3

Nautical Stadium of Nîmes (2007)

Sponsored by the French government and created for the Stade Nautique Nemausa in Nîmes, "Red Sea" is an Enlargement of large-scale fresco reproduction of one of Fridriks's paintings. Measuring 80 square metres in total, it depicts an overflowing, wild sea of paint. Charged with energy it is itself the creation of an artist who constantly pushes herself to the limits in order to create forms which had not existed before. In this sense, her presence in a place where a quest for excellence takes place is absolutely in tune with her own artistic endeavour.



Red Sea Fresco 800 x 1000 x 10 cm - 2008 Olympic Stadium of Nîmes

COMMISSIONS

Fridriks was commissionned by international brands such as **Ralph Lauren** (Fig. 1) in 2010, Bacardi Martini following her solo exhibition "Mangeurs d'étoiles" in 2007 at Museum Palais Bénédictine, in 2010 for the anniversary of **Land Rover** (Fig. 2) as well as **Ducati** (Fig. 3). She also produced specific works for the project **MTV Re:Define** at Michael Goss Foundation in 2011 and **at Dallas Contemporary Museum** (Fig. 4) in 2014. Some of her commissions were auctioned for charity at Phillips or Artcurial.



Fig.1 - RALPH LAUREN

"Art Stars" commissioned for Charity Teenage Cancer Trust
Phillips de Pury auction – London
2010



Fig. 2 - LAND ROVER
International Campaign Award "Land Rover 60 yrs" Defender SVX 1/25 edition
Artcurial auction, Salon de l'Automobile, Fouquet's – Paris



Fig.3 - DUCATI Acrylic on resin (Ducati petrol tank) 2009



Fig.4 - MTV RE:DEFINE at Dallas Contemporary Museum "Lollipop n1 Odyssey" - D90 x 9 cm - Paddle8 auction - Dallas 2014

"Painting is steadily losing terrain for the very simple reason that it is considered too static by the virtual consumer. This staticity blocks its progress. The image of tomorrow that already captures our interest today is a television image: a flexible, mobile image on a fluid evanescent support.

Therefore, those who can still survive today and basically represent active nostalgia or conscience in this vision of your painting are those who manage to have a great memory for faces (of portraits for example) or those who, like you, manage to free pictorial writing or the pictorial gesture from this torpidity into which multimedia and television have plunged them."

Pierre Restany in conversation with Katrin Fridriks, April 15th 2003





Riding Awareness - Messenger Molecule $370 \times 250 \times 14$ cm - 2013 acrylic on canvas View at ART13 London & Circle Culture gallery Berlin

CURRICULUM VITAE

1/2

Selection

2016

Little Sun - Solar Panel Collection
"Solar Kids School Program" - Rwanda
Exhibition and charity auction - Berlin

"Golden Autumn reception" group show Circle Culture Gallery – Hamburg

"Still Here, Decade of Lazarides" group show Lazarides Gallery – London

"Macrocosm" solo show Lazarides Gallery – London

ART16

Circle Culture Gallery - London

"Abstract Masters" group show Helene Bailly Gallery – Paris

2015

"New Wave" solo show Circle Culture Gallery – Hamburg

Art International Circle Culture Gallery – Istanbul

Global Art Affairs Foundation & European Cultural Center "Personal Structures – Crossing Borders" Palazzo Bembo – Venice

ART Paris Circle Culture Gallery & Helene Bailly Gallery – Paris

ART15 Circle Culture Gallery – London

Reykjavík Art Museum "Just Painted II" group show Kjarvalsstaðir – Reykjavík

2014

"Stendhal Syndrome" solo show Circle Culture Gallery – Berlin

Art Vienna Circle Culture Gallery – Vienna

ArtInternational Istanbul Circle Culture Gallery – Istanbul

"The 20th century Masterpieces" Museum Seoul Arts Center – Seoul

"Flying Awareness" solo show Lazarides Gallery – London

Museum Contemporary Dallas MTV – Re:Define – Dallas

Summer group Show Pascal Janssens Gallery – Ghent

Art Paris Helene Bailly Gallery – Paris

Art 14 duo show Circle Culture Gallery – London

CURRICULUM VITAE

2/2

Selection

2013 - 2011

"Brutal" group show Lazarides Gallery, 180 The Strand – London

"Potse68" group show Circle Culture Gallery – Berlin

"Fresh Paint" group show Lazarides Gallery – London

ART13 solo show Circle Culture Gallery – London

Michael Goss Foundation MTV Re:Define - Dallas

"Lollipops & Ice-cream" group show Helene Bailly Gallery – Paris

Soho House "The Urban Artist" group show Circle Culture Gallery – Berlin

"Improvisation & Composition" group show Helene Bailly Gallery – Paris

Royal Academy – Prêt à Diner Circle Culture Gallery – London

"Mothernature" solo show Pascal Janssens Gallery – Ghent

"Leak of information" solo show Circle Culture Gallery – Berlin

"The Urban Artist" group show Circle Culture Gallery – Hamburg

"L'art du graffiti : 40 ans de pressionnisme" group show Forum Grimaldi – Monaco

"The future is not what it used to be" group show Le Basse Gallery – Los Angeles

2010 - 2007

Border Contemporary Art Zone Pascal Janssens Gallery – Ghent

"No such a thing as a good painting" group show
Circle Culture Gallery – Berlin

Inauguration Contemporary Art Center – Épinal

Volta 6 Circle Culture Gallery – Basel

Moniker Art Fair "project space" Circle Culture Gallery – London

"Independence Day" group show Lost Horse Gallery – Reykjavik

"Tag" at Grand Palais – Paris

Grand Palais Salon du Collectionneur – Paris

Sequence Art Festival - Reykjavik

Center of Icelandic Art / SIM Barbie-Q – Reykjavik

"Les Mangeurs d'étoiles" solo show Museum Palais Bénédictine – Fécamp

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