

ANIKÓ KUIKKA:
SUN AIKAS KOITTA
(YOUR DAWN WILL COME)
20 April - 22 May 2021



Anikó Kuikka, *Sun Aikas Koittaa (Ending Scene)*, 2020
59.5 x 39.8 cm, Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle Hemp, Edition of 3 + 1 AP

Francesca Fiumano and Andrés Clase are delighted to unveil a solo presentation of a new body of work by Finnish artist Anikó Kuikka at their London gallery from 20th April – 22nd May 2021. The artist makes her debut at Fiumano Clase with an exhibition entitled *Sun Aikas Koittaa (Your Dawn Will Come)*; her own exploration of a primordial fear of death, counterbalanced by the hope of rebirth.

Visitors will be led through the exhibition centred around a single-channel moving image projection accompanied by an audio guide. These media elements are juxtaposed by glass-sculptures of the parasitic tinder polypore (*Fomes fomentarius*) and organic material including highly scented spruce branches.

FIUMANOCLEASE

This immersive, multisensory installation guides the viewer on a contemplative journey to confront fundamental human concerns including death of self, the loss of ego, and the re-birth of the soul.

The protagonist of the film is a painter who has lost her sight due to a brain tumour. We watch her live through a whole lonely day which ultimately leads to her confronting and challenging the meaning of her existence. Does the loss of her sight affect her identity as an artist? Does her new reality as a blind woman offer new opportunities and challenges to her artistic role, through other sensory means. The inclusion of an audio description suggests new opportunities for 'seeing', a re-birth for the artist.

Hand-blown glass sculptures of *Fomes Fomentarius* cling to the gallery walls, much like the parasitic fungi cling to rotting trees. The polypore's feed on the wood in order to thrive ultimately destroying the host itself. Here the artist emphasises the fragility of the forms; the glass is easily breakable whilst the walls remain strong. The artist evokes the strength and resilience of people who experience life-altering illness. Kuikka's work seeks to demonstrate not only human fragility but the strength it possesses to keep going in the face of such challenging circumstances.

In asking her audience to engage all their senses in experiencing the installation, Kuikka's current work has opened up her practice to blind and partially sighted visitors. The combination of sound, touch and smell embraces visitors passing through the installation, not simply relying on our vision to experience the work. In a world where the visual sense can be overloaded and our other senses subdued, Kuikka's installation brings other senses to the fore to expand our experience of the world around us.

The creation of this work has been supported by HIAP - Helsinki International Artist Program, Taika - Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Nuutajärvi Glass Village Foundation and the Finnish Art Society.

Notes:

Exhibition Dates: 20th April – 22nd May 2021

Artist in conversation with Jo Baring, F. Fiumano and A. Clase: Date TBC

Fiumano Clase
Unit 12
21 Wren Street
London WC1X 0HF

<https://www.fiumanoclase.com>

Opening hours:

Wednesday – Friday 12– 6pm

Saturday – 12– 4pm

All other times by appointment

About Fiumano Clase:

FIUMANO CLASE

Fiumano Clase is one of the most exciting contemporary galleries on the London scene. As well as hosting regular exhibitions throughout the year at their London gallery, Francesca Fiumano and Andrés Clase normally exhibit regularly at art fairs internationally such as Untitled San Francisco and Volta Basel .

The central ethos of Fiumano Clase is to work collaboratively with artists, giving them the time, space and opportunity to develop their artistic practice unhindered by overbearing commercial pressure. Gallery Directors Francesca Fiumano and Andrés Clase, made the decision to merge galleries and form Fiumano Clase in November 2017 after a number of successful collaborations, pooling over thirty years of combined knowledge and experience.

Given his Swedish origins, Andrés Clase is naturally drawn to the work of Nordic artists. Though, the outlook of the gallery remains global. Francesca and Andrés work with a number of artists internationally, embracing a range of different practices from painting and sculpture, to photography, installation, video and performance art.

About Anikó Kuikka

Anikó Kuikka is a Finnish artist currently based in Soumenlinna, Finland participating in the Helsinki International Artists Programme studio residency. Kuikka is a recent graduate of the Royal Academy of Arts, London, where her installation “With Sugar” garnered critical acclaim.

Kuikka’s practice is mainly focused on narrative storytelling via moving image and immersive largescale installations. Her fascination with the absurd and the uncanny firmly root her in the Nordic tradition, with dark undertones and surprizing paradoxes weaving in and out of the realities she constructs.

“ I use recognizable and ordinary everyday elements and materials, that I then amplify or place out of context so that they appear odd, surreal yet familiar. In my moving image, although all the characters and stories are fictional I do depict current social issues, herstory or trauma. ‘The real world’ is the source of fiction – a purely imaginary probably cannot exist?”

Anikó Kuikka, Interview by Athanasía Aarniosuo, April 2020