



HENRIK  
ULDALEN  
*PARADOSIS*

JD MALAT  
GALLERY

October 4th - October 29th 2022

HENRIK ULDALEN  
*PARADOSIS*

JD MALAT  
GALLERY



Swept, 2022

# HENRIK ULDALEN

## PARADOSIS

JD Malat Gallery is delighted to announce the opening of *Paradosis*, a solo exhibition by London-based Norwegian expressionist artist Henrik Uldalen (b. 1986). Exploring the thorny path for unearthing the true self through the act of surrender, the show introduces Uldalen's newest oeuvre to New York City's art scene. Sourcing his inspiration from the writings of Danish philosopher and theologian Soeren Kierkegaard (1813-1855), Uldalen encourages the audience to participate in a thought-provoking reflection upon the meaning of life.

*Paradosis* stems from the Greek *παράδοσις*, i.e. the act of giving up; to surrender. The onyx black background symbolises the dread for the world which attempts to consume the troubled mind from within. In this brand new series, the expressive thickly-layered oil paint brushstrokes – impasto technique – are concentrated on the upper part of the depicted bodies. This highlights the fragility of the unsteady mind which surrenders to the darkness. The chiaroscuro technique intensifies the dramatism of internal wanderings, each body depicted on the brim of dispersion in the darkness. Reaching up to three metres in height, Uldalen's artworks invite the viewers to fully immerse themselves into the soul-searching abyss.

Midway through the exhibition, one starts to notice a striking contrast: the lower parts of the bodies seem to be frozen in time, more structural, while the faces are distorted, painted with airy brushstrokes, producing a highly dynamic painterly surface. The titles of the artworks act as symbolic hints, unravelling the details of each scene. For example, *Surge* depicts a young woman with a timid hand-over-face gesture. The wave-shaped dispersing impastoed lines are reminiscent of the power with which the tide of emotions crushes one's being. The title acts as a compass, directing the viewer's visual perception of the piece.

Through his unique and recognisable technique, Uldalen calls for the feelings of sublimity and tragedy, evoking 'the ideas of getting swept by the sea, dissolving into the abyss, losing oneself.' The appearance of raw canvas is a striking element in some of the paintings such as *Spill*, *Pour* and *Surge*. The contrast between a highly-textured surface and the evident raw nature of the linen fabric saturates these artworks with even greater dramatism. As the fleshy tones disperse in energetic streams from the centre of the figures to the external environment, Uldalen blurs the lines between the human body and the arresting dark backgrounds. Triggering the idea of surrender, the painterly subjects are giving up on the battle with themselves, their fears, and, consequently, achieve comfort and peace.

Looking at *Swept*, the largest canvas in *Paradosis*, the viewer observes four figures with entwined limbs, immersed in each other's entity. The absence of heavily impastoed brushstrokes symbolises Uldalen's continuous reflection on the subject of existentialism. The bodily chain depicted in *Swept* mirrors the act of seeking comfort within a group of similar mindsets – the movement towards self-preservation and escapism. As Uldalen highlights, 'The show is about giving in to the comfortable and safe, assimilating myself into social, institutional, or familial networks. Losing oneself to the finite as opposed to the infinite.'

Reflecting on his previous solo exhibitions *Metanoia*, *Lethe* and *Love in Exile*, it comes as no surprise that the anxiety and terror go in parallel with Uldalen's practice. However, the dread for the world is not the endpoint at *Paradosis*. Instead, the show attempts to extend the limits of human consciousness, breaking through the shackles of imposed darkness, then eventually, freeing oneself. JD Malat Gallery is extremely proud to exhibit the newest artworks by Henrik Uldalen – for the very first time – in New York. The show will be open from 4th October to 1st November 2022.



*Flow, 2022*

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm





*Spill*, 2022

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm





*Pour, 2022*

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm





*Tide, 2022*

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm





*Stream, 2022*

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm





*Surge*, 2022

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm



*Drain, 2022*

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm





*Cascade, 2022*

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 47 1/4 in  
180 x 120 cm





*Swept*, 2022

Oil on linen  
70 7/8 x 118 1/8 in  
180 x 300 cm



Henrik Aa. Uldalen CV

b. 1986 - South Korea

#### Selected Solo Exhibitions

2021 Love in Exile, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK  
2019 Lethe, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK  
2018 Metanoia, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK  
2016 Rapture, Last Rites Gallery, NY, USA  
2014 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA  
2011 Galerie Contour, Skagen, Denmark  
2010 Galleri Ramfjord, Oslo, Norway

#### Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 Summer Exhibition 2021, 2021, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK  
2020 Summer Group Exhibition, 2020, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK  
2020 The Contemporary Human Condition, 2020, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK  
2019 Summer Exhibition 2019, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK  
2017 Supersonic Invitational, Spoke Art, San Francisco CA, USA  
2016 Beinart Gallery, Melbourne, AU  
2016 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
2015 Les Petit Fours, Friends Of Leon Gallery, Sydney, AU  
2015 Unfurl, Gallery 1261, Denver CO, USA  
2015 Platinum Blend, Modern Eden, San Francisco CA, USA  
2015 20 Years Under The Influence of Juxtapoz, LA Municipal Art Gallery CA, USA  
2015 The Moleskine Project 4, Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco CA, USA  
2014 LA Art Show, Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA  
2014 LA Art Show, Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles CA, USA  
2014 Arcadia Contemporary, NY, USA

2014 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA  
2013 Art Collector Starter Kit, Corey Helford Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA  
2013 Contemporary Realism, Gallery 1261, Denver CO, USA  
2013 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA  
2012 Galleri Ramfjord, Oslo, Norway  
2012 Art Basel, J. LeVine Gallery, Basel, Switzerland  
2012 Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles CA, USA  
2012 Beautiful Maladies, NOosphere Arts, NY, USA

#### Art Fairs

2021 Tezos Booth, Art Basel, Miami  
2019 Contemporary Istanbul, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey  
2019 Seattle Art Fair, JD Malat Gallery, Seattle WA, USA  
2019 ZONA MACO, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico  
2018 Art on Paper, Spoke Art, New York, USA  
2015 Scope Art Show, Galleri Ramfjord, NY, USA  
2014 Scope Art Fair, Arcadia Contemporary, NY, USA

#### Residencies

2020 Arthouse Pani, Museo de Arte de Querétaro, Tequisquiapan, Mexico



This catalogue was produced for the exhibition  
'Paradosis' by Henrik Uldalen.

Catalogue entry: Yana Sergeeva

Special thanks: Henrik Uldalen and JD Malat Gallery Team

[info@jdmalat.com](mailto:info@jdmalat.com)

30 Davies Street, London W1K 4NB

+ 44 203 746 68 30  
[www.jdmalat.com](http://www.jdmalat.com)

Copyright © 2022 JD Malat Gallery

