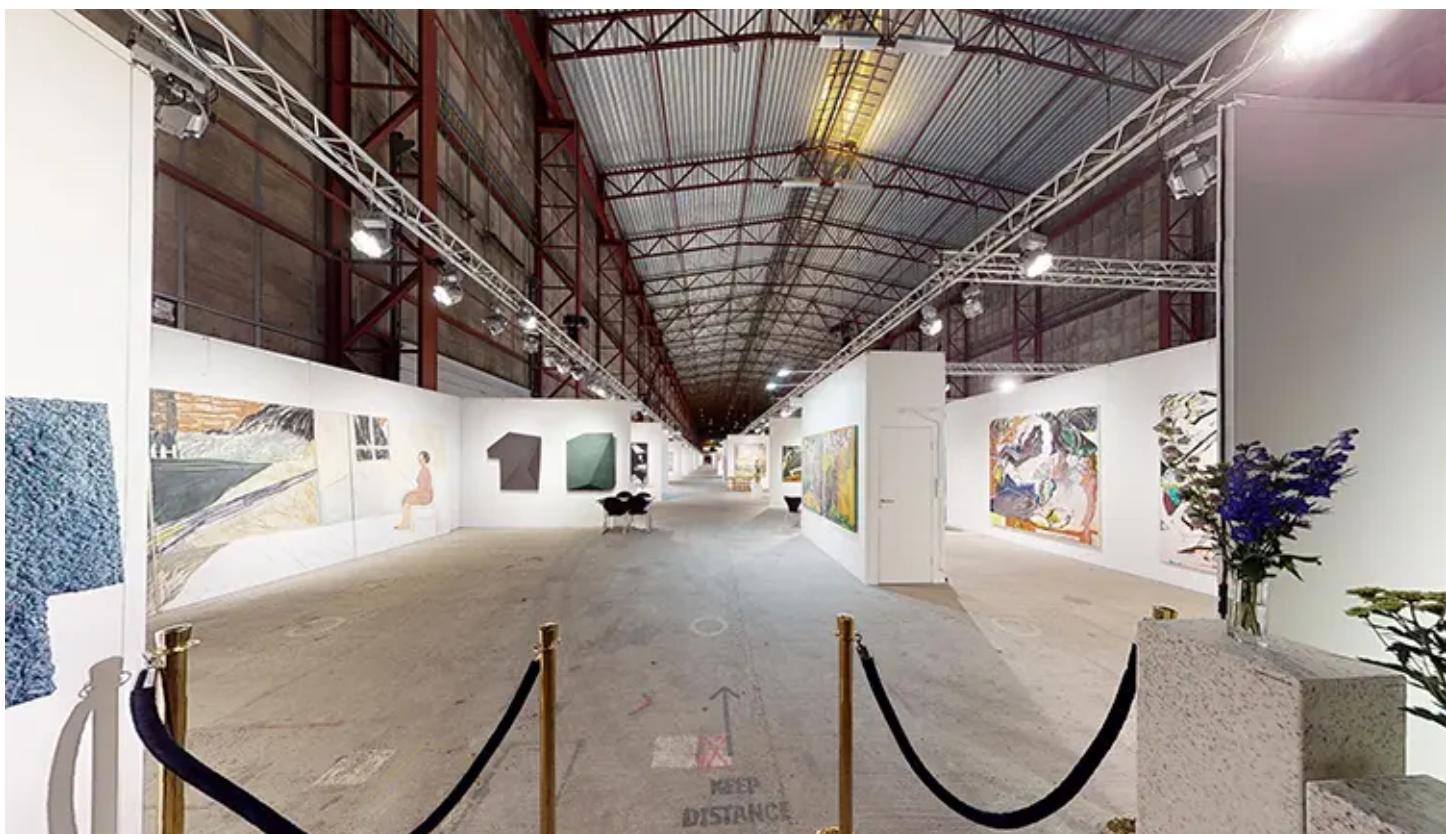


Millie Walton | 02/09/2021 | Art

(Text)ural Works and Abstraction at Enter Art Fair

Highlights from the 2021 edition of Scandinavia's largest international art fair



The best thing about art fairs is that you get to see a diverse collection of work presented under one roof, but it's also interesting to identify the common threads – recurring themes, colours and stylistic similarities – which, perhaps, reflect something beyond the individual artist: a kind of collective murmuring.

At this year's edition of [Enter Art Fair](#), amongst a sprawling collection of over 60 [galleries](#) and 250 artists, there seemed to be a focus on memory and nature, depicted as an atmosphere rather than a specific place through gestural and [abstract](#) paintings, alongside a selection of text-based works, which employed wit and humour to provoke questions around [climate change](#), consumerism and [identity](#).

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Caroline Jane Harris, Portal II, 2021. Courtesy the artist & Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery

Tom Reichster Gallery presented a series of paintings by Yang Kailiang, evoking different versions of a gloomy landscape. Blurred and abstracted by the artist's brushstrokes, the works convey a strong sense of uncertainty and instability, as if the landscapes were being simultaneously remembered and forgotten.

A similar theme continued in [Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery](#)'s booth with two mixed-media artworks British artist Caroline Jane Harris. Circular in shape, the artworks, entitled Portal I and II, offer a glimpse of a green, leafy landscape, fractured by [the presence](#) of a window pane and the artist's hand-cut detailing, which creates a kind of gauze-like texture. Alongside Harris' work the gallery presented a painting by Norwegian artist Vibeke Slyngstad, depicting a white, industrial-looking door opening into a similarly lush setting amongst which two figures are partially hidden behind the leaves of a tree. In this way, both artists play on the idea of art as a kind of threshold into other worlds and new perspectives, while also evoking a slightly [surreal](#) and unsettling atmosphere that resonates with ideas around memory and loss.



Mercedes Lara, *The Last Frontier*, 2020

Danish artist Astrid Kruse Jensen's faded photographs at Martin Asbæk Gallery also explore notions of memory and place, capturing sunlight as a kind of ghostlike presence that hangs suspended in eerie, vacant domestic spaces. Meanwhile, Mercedes Lara's series of textured, mixed-media works, presented by Lucia Mendoza, employ gold and copper leaf and sewn felt on panels of recycled wood to create delicate maps that trace the contours of land and sea.

Laure Prouvost, *Grand Ma paints nice boobs and bums to get back grand dad John Piper has no interest in these things*, 2017

The most compelling text-based works erred on the side of surreal (rather than literal) with words and phrases suspended amidst colour, against whimsical backdrops (such as Iliodora Margellos' series of textile-based pieces at Dio Horia gallery) or presented, in the case of Laure Provost's *Grand Ma paints nice boobs and bums to get back grand dad John Piper has no interest in these things* at carlier | gebauer gallery, as a kind of caption. ([Enter Art Fair's Head Art Advisor & Chairman of the selection](#)

committee, Kirsten Eggers curated her own excellent selection of text-based works on [social media](#), which can also be viewed [here](#)).

The 2021 edition of [Enter Art Fair](#) took place between 26th and 29th August 2021 in Copenhagen. To experience the fair virtually, visit: artland.com/fairs/enter-art-fair-2021

Millie Walton

Millie Walton is a London-based art writer and editor. She has contributed a broad range of arts and culture [features](#) and interviews to numerous international publications, and collaborated with artists and galleries globally. She also writes fiction and poetry.



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For art to exist, for any sort of aesthetic activity or perception to exist, a certain physiological precondition is indispensable: intoxication. – Friedrich Nietzsche

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