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**ELZA SILE**

kitten in a fridge

ZURICH

Mar 05 - Apr 17, 2021

**PRESS RELEASE, CAPTIONS & CV**

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We are proud to present the first solo exhibition by Riga-born, Zurich-based artist Elza Sile, whose work constitutes one of the most original contributions to painting and installation art in recent years. The title of the exhibition; "kitten in a fridge" alludes to "Schrödinger's cat" and the thought experiment that illustrates an apparent paradox of quantum superposition.

Working primarily on aluminium sheets and as such creating a laboratory-like appearance, Sile makes use of an unusual diversity of uncanny and ordinary materials: sliding tubes, oil paint irrigations and support systems, miniature constructions of readymade, graphite pencil lead, flickering gelatine emblems, thread traps and borderlines, hand-tapped image traces, opaque inhabited capsules and topographical maps, which morph into smoke rings, voluminous spirals, warped space vortexes and snakeskin patterns.

Intricate visual scenarios elaborate into layouts of clusters, categories, menus, units and sets. The artist combines mental imagery with analytic divisions and builds up an interwoven vocabulary of psycho-spatial typologies in flux. Sile's oeuvre consists of human-scale constructions, models made from painting materials, fictional dialogs called CASES, including translations into smaller outputs of stickers, tattoos and CG renderings.

According to Schrödinger's thought experiment, a cat is in a box with a vial of poison. The vial breaks if an atom inside the box decays. The atom is superposed in decay and non-decay states until it is observed, and thus the cat is superposed in alive and dead states.

Upon entering the gallery, the viewer finds her/himself confronted with a setting of twenty-four paintings, arranged in u-shaped layouts, like a banquet or congress meeting. All the paintings are installed at exactly the same height, even though the gallery space is comprised of two different levels: Whilst in the first room, on the lower level, the paintings are installed higher than anticipated, on the upper level, the works are installed particularly low. This choice allows for a spatial, phenomenological experience and reallocates the viewer's body and mind.

Depending on the viewing perspective, sculptural elements emerge and disappear. Familiar objects serve as entry points to establish a relative connection in both perception and language. Miniature correlations reveal different structures of experience, which incessantly form new clusters of interpretations. Hence, the viewer is invited to investigate this mind-space of reflective task systems and to navigate into a subjective trip or training program of reflection.

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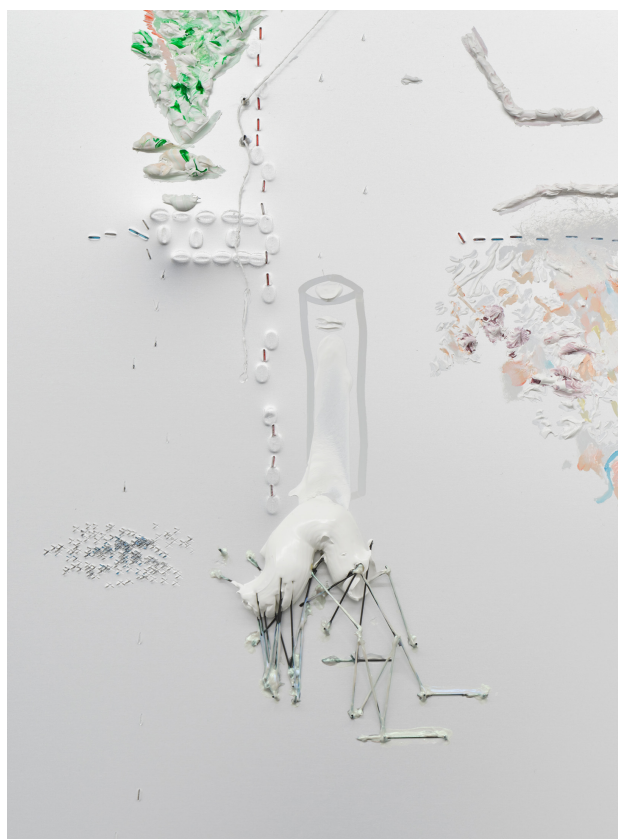
Elza Sile was born 1989, in Latvia and lives in Zurich. In 2019, Sile graduated from ZHdK Zurich. This year, Sile is nominated for the Swiss Art Awards and we will present a solo booth at Liste Art Fair Basel. Recent solo exhibitions include at unanimous consent (Zurich, 2020) and Kulturfolger Zürich (2020). She has participated in numerous two-person and group shows, such as at KIM? Contemporary Art Center (Riga, 2020); Kunsthalle Zürich (2020); Hamlet (Zurich, 2020) and Galerie Kirchgasse (Steckborn, 2020). In 2020, Sile was a recipient of the Werkschau Price Zurich.

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*Fillet*, 2021, oil paint, spray paint, marker pen and fineliner on hand-tapped aluminium, 125 x 100 cm / 49.2 x 39.3 in



*The Map and the Territory (Fargo)*, 2021, oil paint, marker pen, fineliner, graphite pencil lead, string, gelatine and glue on hand-tapped aluminium, 125 x 100 cm

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*Snakes smile\_2: North/south coffin*, 2021, oil paint, spray paint and fineliner on hand-tapped aluminium, 62.5 x 45 cm

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*Borscht roulette (blinded astronaut)*, 2021, oil paint and fineliner on hand-tapped aluminium, 100 x 70 cm / 39.3 x 27.5 in

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*Russian young peppermint*, 2021, oil paint, fineliner, cut-outs and glue on hand-tapped aluminium, 100 x 70 cm / 39.3 x 27.5 in



*Seducer's Diary*, 2021, oil paint, fineliner, cut-outs and glue on aluminium, 125 x 100 cm / 49.2 x 39.3 in

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*Stairs to downstairs*, 2021, oil paint, marker pen and fineliner on hand-tapped aluminium, 62.5 x 45 cm / 24.6 x 17.7 in

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API3, 2021, oil paint, cut-outs and glue on aluminium, 62.5 x 45 cm

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## CV

### ELZA SILE

Born 1989, in Riga – LV  
Lives and works in Zurich – CH

### EDUCATION

2016 – 2019  
Master of Arts in Fine Arts at ZHdK Diploma (Distinction) – CH

2008 – 2014  
BA from Art Academy of Latvia department of Painting (Distinction) – LV

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021  
GALERIE PHILIPPZOLLINGER, Zurich – CH

2020  
Agitation Campaign, LOW Gallery, Riga – LV  
Hunter's Fallacy a Strawberry, UNANIMOUS CONSENT, Zurich – CH  
cubicles.dump, KULTURFOLGER, Zurich – CH

2019  
(c1, c2, lemon & etc.), VSIA Riga Ex-Elephant Stalls – LV

2018  
On Roads Rural & Dangerous, Plus Ugly, gallery Alma – LV

2014  
Enlarging Original, LMC Kim? – LV

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020  
BLACK MARKET, Kim? Contemporary Art Center, Riga – LV  
True Grid irl, UNANIMOUS CONSENT, Zurich – CH  
GENEVA SET, espace\_topic, Geneve – CH  
UCHIGAWA, Home of TMF, Geneve – CH  
Werkschau, Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich – CH  
FAKTURA (FOR A NERVOUS SPIRIT), Kim? Contemporary Art Center, Riga – LV  
Among Them, Kirchgasse, Steckborn – CH  
SUMMER OF SUSPENSE, Kunsthalle Zurich – CH  
Unreal Estate, HAMLET, Zurich – CH

2019  
Der Logische Aufbau der Welt, VOLUMES, Kunsthalle Zurich – CH  
Its no Exageration to say The Undecideds can go one way or another, AKKU Uster – CH  
Bundesministerium, Sporta 2 Angar, Riga – LV  
What Even, Lielais Dzintars, Liepāja – LV  
SETS, MFA degree show curated by Elise Lammer, ZHdK, Zurich – CH  
Digital Ecologies, Center for Contemporary Art, Plovdiv – BLG

2017  
YOUNG POPES, Villa Maraini, Swiss Institute in Rome – IT

### AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

2020, Haus Konstruktiv Werkschau  
2012, SEB Grants for Painting and a residency in EU city of choice  
2009, Boriss Berzins Grant for Drawing