

SANTERI TUORI

Välitön luonto
Immediate Nature

6 February – 2 March 2025

Galerie Anhava is delighted to present **Santeri Tuori's** solo exhibition *Immediate Nature*. Last time works by the internationally active artist were seen in his previous solo show in the gallery in 2016, and his new art works convey a fresh sense of intensity, freedom, and a hint of the uncontrollable.

Over the years, Tuori has persistently examined portraiture and landscape in his practice. In this exhibition, his layered depictions of forests and cloud formations are accompanied by individual cloud studies, silhouetted bare tree trunks, and a video portrait in the gallery's basement. The artist has been intrigued by how our understanding of time has changed in relation to nature. The idea of permanence and slow transformation is now joined by a more urgent rhythm and sense of immediacy. At times, the landscape appears to surge towards the viewer, while elsewhere the eye is drawn to a dense tangle of branches or a constellation of round images of clouds in varying sizes.

Tuori deftly moulds inherent qualities of photographic material in his work. Richly layered images are built from numerous exposures – positive and negative, black-and-white and colour, transparent and opaque – all of which serve as cornerstones of Tuori's expression, enabling him to construct the dense visual mass that characterises his images. The photographs can also be seen as sublime landscapes emerging from the artist's own inner world.

In the *Immediate Nature* series, Tuori has photographed people close to him and scenes from his everyday environment. The viewer sees a thick, shimmering tangle of branches from which a figure gradually emerges. The genres of portraiture and landscape coexist in many of the works, but in the new *Black Tree* series there is also physical double layering: a black-and-white photographic print is overlaid with a second print of the same image on translucent Japanese paper. This double printing lends the images intriguing vibrancy and vivid sense of depth. The series of dark portraits of trees also has a performative quality: as the branches shift position from one image to the next, it is as though the tree were dancing, waving its limbs.

In a new series of works entitled *Cloud*, Tuori has photographed a single cloud moving across the sky, taking multiple shots over a short period of time. He then displays these individual cloud images on the wall in a drifting cluster, creating the impression that the images are dispersing into the sky. It is as if the artist had decided to deconstruct the image and its layers for the viewer, turning the cloud, the image and time itself towards us for examination. The ephemeral nature of the moment shimmers in the work, the light fades into immateriality, slips into blackness, and flashes into its opposite.

Santeri Tuori (b. 1970) lives and works in Helsinki. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions worldwide, including at Fotografiska in New York, Stockholm and Tallinn; Serlachius Museum Gösta, Mänttä; Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg; Schlossgaart, Luxembourg; Kunsthalle, Helsinki; Purdy Hicks Gallery, London; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; and Beraro Museum, Lisbon. Tuori's works have been acquired by several major collections, such as EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art, the Serlachius Museum, the Finnish Museum of Photography, FRAC Haute-Normandie, Malmö Art Museum, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, as well as numerous private collections. Tuori has also realised several public artworks in Finland.

–Hanna Huitu