

JUSSI NIVA

With All My Senses

7.-31.8.2025

The exhibition launching the autumn season at Galerie Anhava is *With All My Senses*, in which **Jussi Niva** continues his painterly exploration of the experience of space, volume and material. In a departure from his earlier works, Niva's new paintings are more freely situated in the space. Instead of conforming to the typical frontality of painting, these works are variously free-standing or lean or rest against each other, or appear to be pulling slightly away from the wall.

While the works retain the archetypal rectangular shape of the canvas, the intersections and undulating turns of the painted surfaces suggest a two-sided, curved form. The works are like fragments of a larger spherical surface, which, depending on the angle of view, may appear spatially closing or opening. As the viewer moves through the space, the works offer insights into understanding the positive and negative form of the painted surface, with some of the canvases painted on both sides.

Although they are devoid of imagery, the works are actively involved in the temporal event of viewing. Like traditional paintings, these works also project a space, but three-dimensionally and in multiple directions. Hence they are not defined exclusively by the surface but also by the viewer's changing position, distances and the surrounding space. In their immateriality, they carry as much meaning as material.

The key piece of the exhibition is *With All My Senses, Layers*, a free-standing painting approximately three metres tall, in which two slightly curved surfaces lean against each other in the centre of the gallery. Like a sculpture, the work can be viewed from all directions. Its surfaces are painted on both sides, illusorily following their undulating turns, as if to emphasise the spatial planes typical of painting and the impression of spatiality they create. However, some of the sculptural volume and concreteness is voided in the very act of viewing, re-evoking the experience of the flat, swaying, elastic nature of painting.

"My new works open up the senses more broadly than before. Their impact and interpretation is more open, but without losing the characteristic challenging quality of my work. Their abstraction is always subject to interpretation. In spite of their lack of imagery, the works do suggest the nature of mass, or levitating weightlessness, a rhythm akin to sound, a flowing motion, or material associations evoked by colour. The material has a language of its own that one can identify with directly through the body and the senses. For instance, the manner in which the *Layers* painting is present as a real entity, and the physicality of its effect on me as a viewer and on the space in which it finds itself remains unclear to me. That's why looking at it continues to engage me, and give me pleasure." –Jussi Niva

Jussi Niva (b. 1966) has been working on spatial painting installations that reflect on viewing and interpretation since 1989. His work is represented in numerous major public collections, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Aine Art Museum, Sara Hildén Art Museum, Malmö Art Museum, and the Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation Collection, as well as many private collections. He participated in the 1992 Kassel Documenta and represented Finland at the Venice Biennale in 1993. In recent years, Niva's work has been shown in numerous exhibitions, including Turku Art Museum (2025, 2023); EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art (2024), Sammlung Peters-Messer, Viersen (2024); Sara Hildén Art Museum, Tampere (2023) and Weserburg Museum für Moderne Kunst (2020).