

INKA BELL

To and Fro

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Inka Bell's delicate yet edgy solo exhibition explores liminal spaces between two- and three-dimensionality. The show consists of paper sculptures and collage-like works whose essence lies in the dynamic between geometric forms and the material and technique. Even with their echoes of minimalism and concretism, the works are nevertheless unmistakably, playfully, insightfully Bell's own. They are subtle events of transition, repetition, and transformation where two surfaces come together again and again.

The exhibition's title, *To and Fro*, is like hint to the viewer: as one moves through the space, the works' subtle insights, clever diversions, and optical events become activated; patterns and colours come to life, something happens before one's eyes, the brain gets a jolt. The elements in the works live in all sorts of directions, repeating, turning, rotating, stretching or falling into a rhythmic relation with what came before. Changes and transitions become visible in the relationship between the image and its outline. The components can be arranged in countless ways, rhythms, and combinations. As she works, Bell herself navigates among the potentialities of the piece, returning to and drifting away from the original idea, and perhaps discovering something new along the way.

Bell's practice is a seamless movement between different techniques, materials, and motifs. The more two-dimensional works are created by combining screen printing with laser engraving. Rather than adding to the surface, the image emerges by removing some of the solid printed colour with the burning beam of a precision laser. The three-dimensional paper sculptures are created by layering thousands of precisely cut paper elements, one piece at a time, in different rhythms and combinations, until the right order falls into place and the mind finds peace.

Inka Bell (b. 1981, Espoo) lives and works in Helsinki. She graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Printmaking Department of the Academy of Fine Arts at the University of the Arts Helsinki in 2021, and is actively engaged in printmaking, paper sculptures, and public art. In recent years Bell has held numerous solo exhibitions, including at Turku Art Museum, Bricks Gallery in Copenhagen, and Forum Box in Helsinki. Her works have been acquired for several public collections in the United States, Denmark, Belgium, and Finland, including EMMA – Espoo Museum of Modern Art, HAM Helsinki Art Museum, and Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma. In 2024, Bell received the William Thuring Grand Prize awarded by the Finnish Art Society.

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