



Simo Saarikoski
portfolio
<https://simosaarikoski.com/>

About

Simo Saarikoski (b. 1980) is a versatile artist based in Helsinki. He works with video, performances and watercolor paintings. In his works he examines the phenomena of our time as well as the human psyche and the impact of humans on their environment. In addition to his solo work, he is part of the group Messianic Research Centre for Visual Ethics and the Pori-based T.E.H.D.A.S. collective. The artist's works in various forms have been on display in over 20 countries.



Abandoned Land(s)

stills from short documentary /2023

RAW / 16:9 / stereo / work in progress

Short documentary of tired Europe



"Nostalgia"

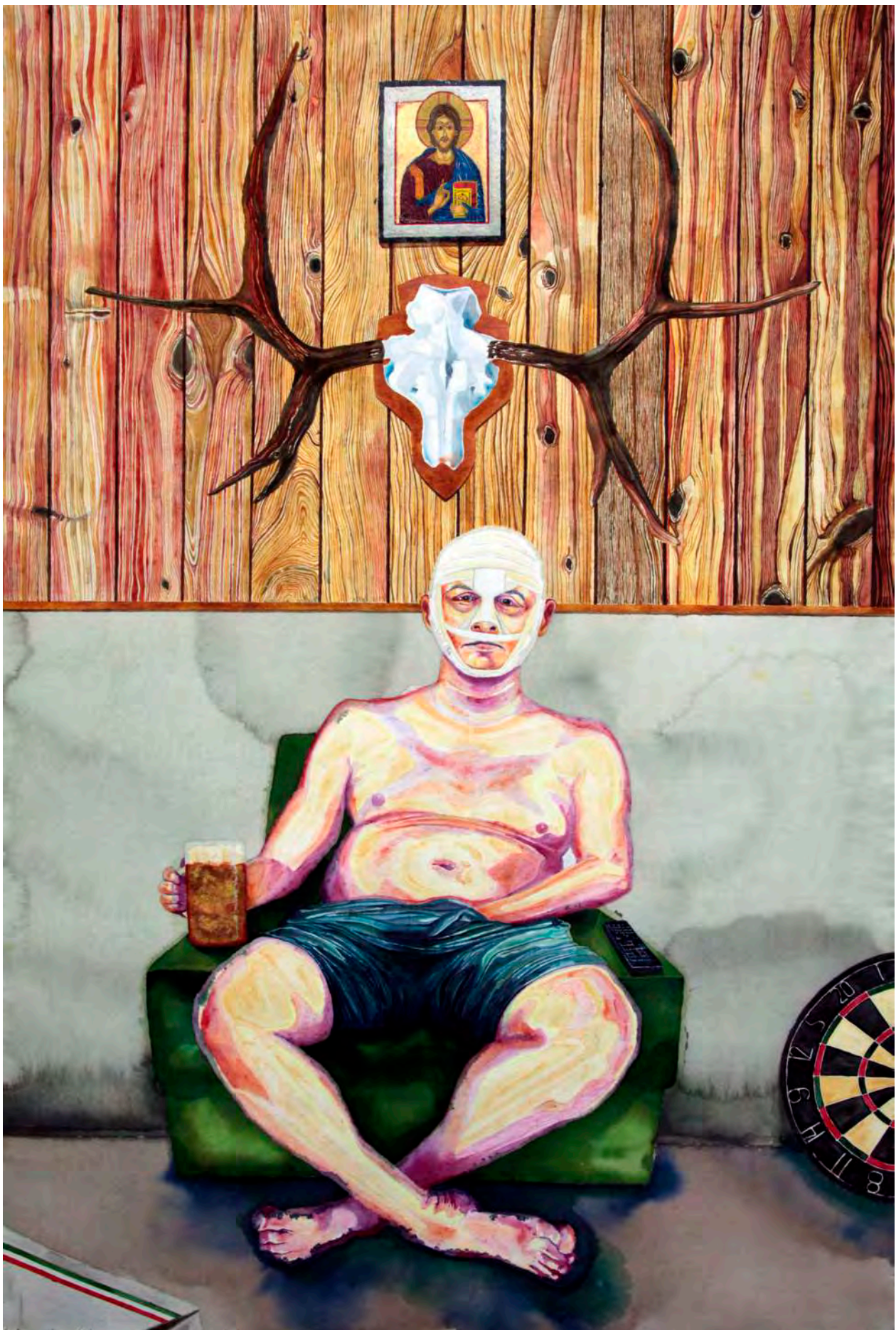
watercolor, ink and gouache on paper / 80 x 120cm / 2024



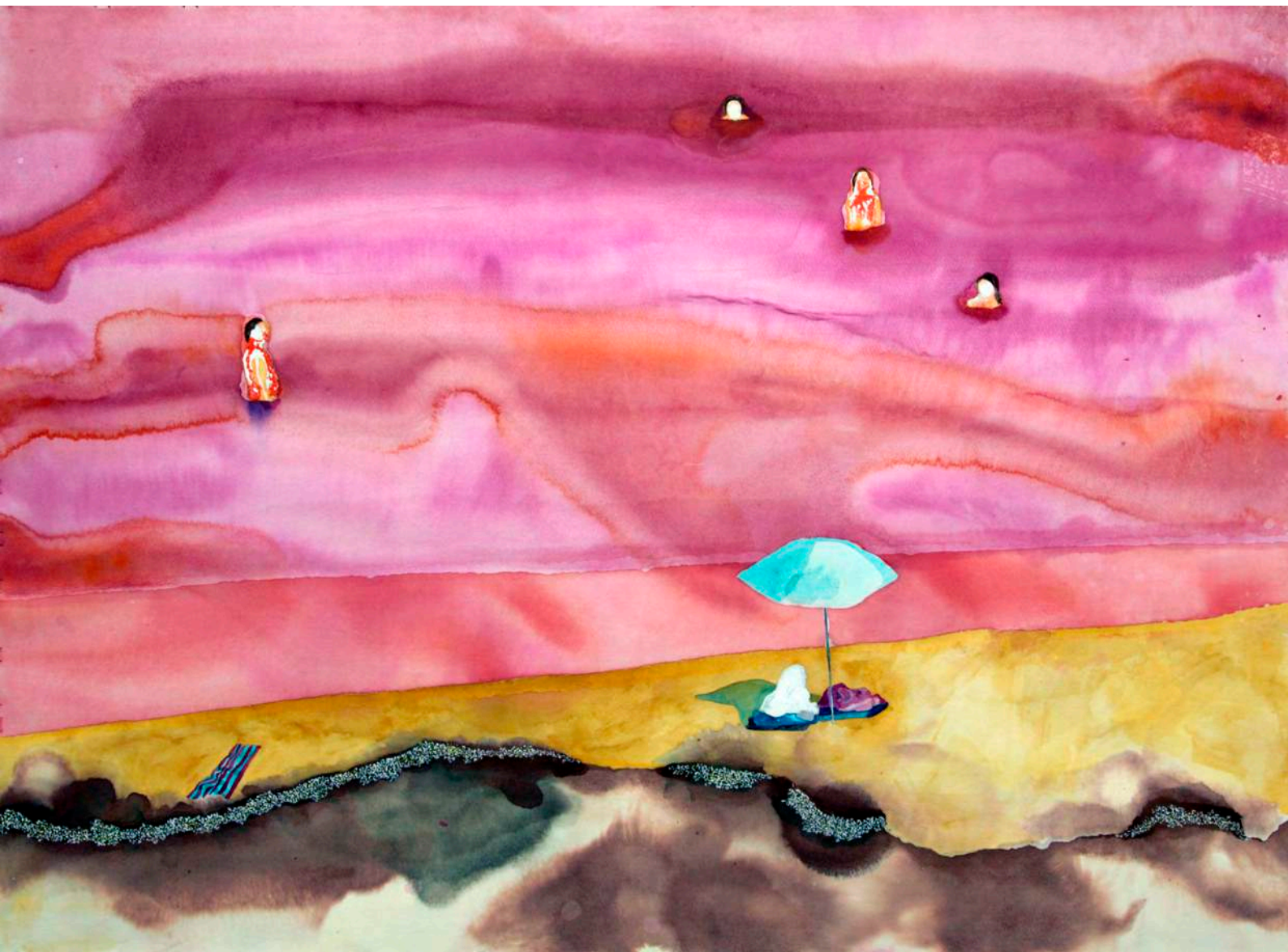
"Summer Excursion" / From The Series "Shallow Time"

watercolor and gouache on paper / 75x 55 cm / 2022

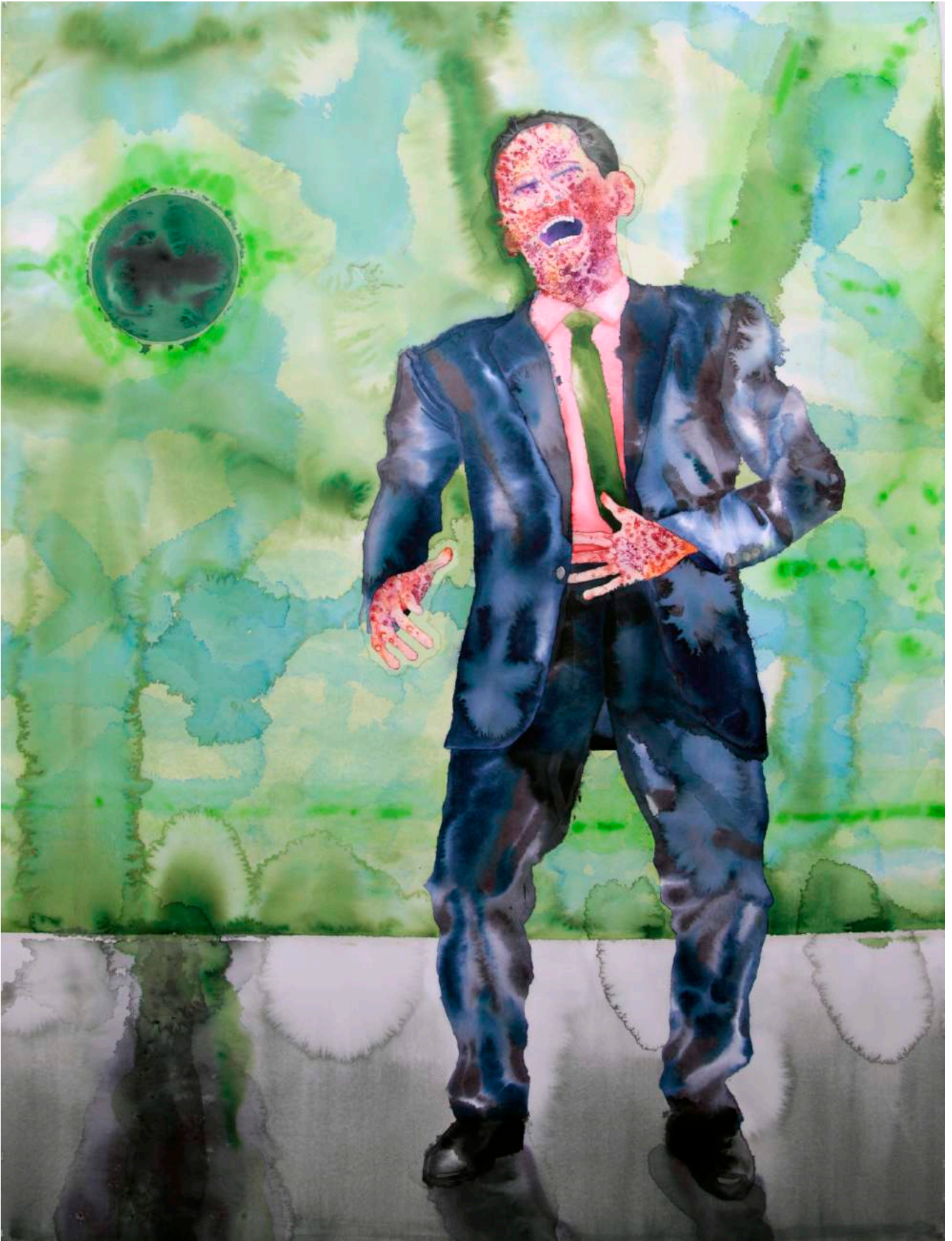
The series is an attempt to understand our own time and its phenomena, as well as how it affects us collectively. It seeks to crystallize the spirit of time that slips out of hand every time you try to define it by explainable means. Anthropologists have different terms for different conceptions of time. Shallow Time means thin or superficial time, life right now.



"My Own Private Toxic Masculinity" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
watercolor, pencil and ink on paper / 115 x 78 cm / 2023



"Bloodbath" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
watercolor, ink and gouache on paper / 78 x 106 cm / 2023



"Too Late, Boomer" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
watercolor and ink on paper / 160x120 cm / 2021



"Lucky Girl Syndrome" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
watercolor and ink on paper / 99 x 74 cm / 2023



"Three Tourists on Their Way to Death on Everest"
From The Series "Shallow Time"
watercolor, ink and gouache on paper / 78x 115 cm / 2021



"Very Special Operator" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
watercolor and ink on paper / 75x 52 cm / 2022



"Cancelled" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
watercolor and ink on paper / 45x 32 cm / 2021



"F.O.M.O." / From The Series "Shallow Time"
painted plaster / 32x 15x 26cm / 2024



"Prosperity Theologian's Dream" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
painted plaster / 30 x21x 26cm / 2021



"Young Populist" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
painted plaster & mixed media / 34x 30x 23cm / 2021



"Proletarian Lobotomy" / From The Series "Shallow Time"
painted plaster & mixed media / 47x 23x 25cm / 2022



Abandoned Land I & II

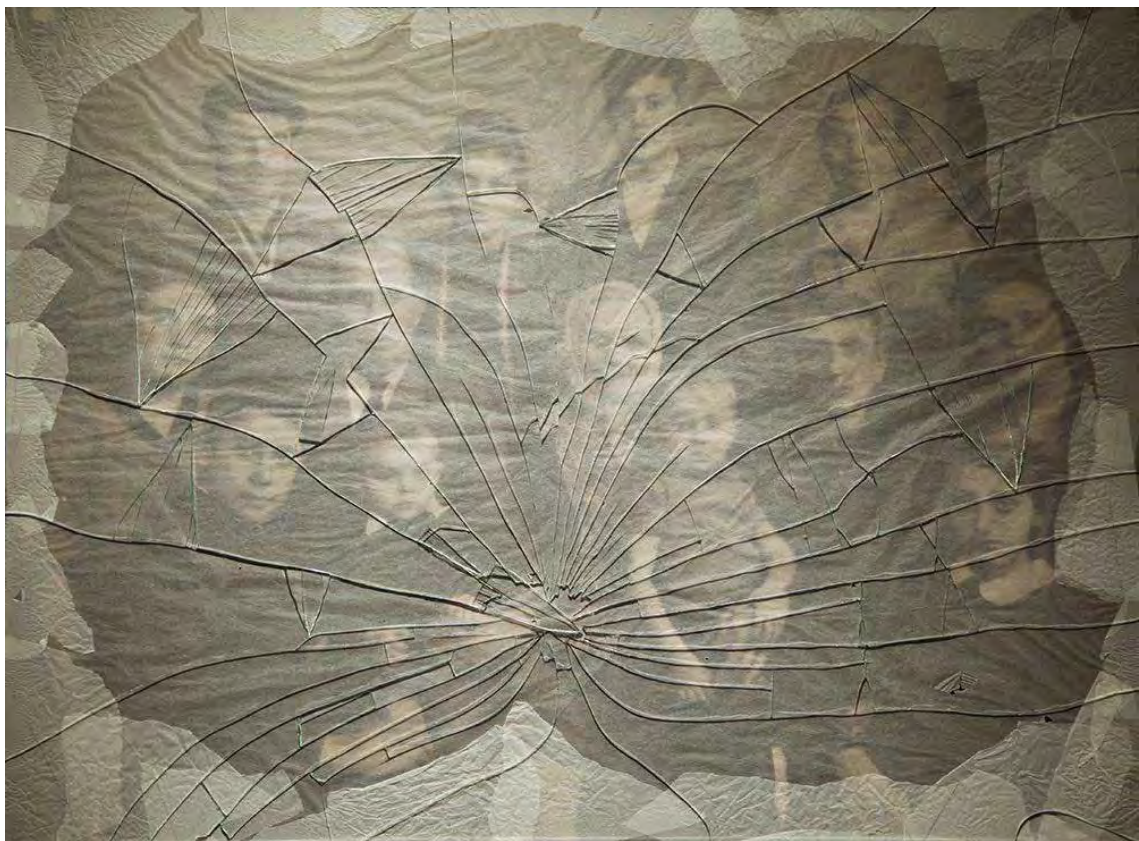
stills from video

HD / 16:9 / stereo / 12.15 min, 19.14 min / Dialogue: Finnish / Subtitles: English / 2017 & 2018

Camera, Edit, Sound design & Music: Simo Saarikoski

Translation & subtitles: Lora Dimova

Abandoned Land is an experimental, documentary and poetic video about the lost Finland and at the same time about its future. It documents abandoned environments and forgotten lifestyles that have become the periphery of Finnish society and phenomena from today's perspective. Finland is a metaphor for the social change throughout Europe from the ending of the Second World War up to the present day



Distant Voices, Still Lives

Installation

16 watercolor portraits (each 55×40 cm), silk paper, led -lights, photograph & glass,
video 02.15 min, soundscape 12.30 min / 2017

Distant Voices, Still Lives is an installation, based on the classic movie under the same name by Terence Davies. As in the movie, the installation preserves memories and explores the effect time has on them. How do we remember people and events from our past and how time shapes our memories?



Distant Voices, Still Lives

Installation view from Gallery Oksasenkatu 11, Helsinki
January 2017



The Ghost of the Present

Stills from video

HDV / 16:9 / Stereo / 15.00 min

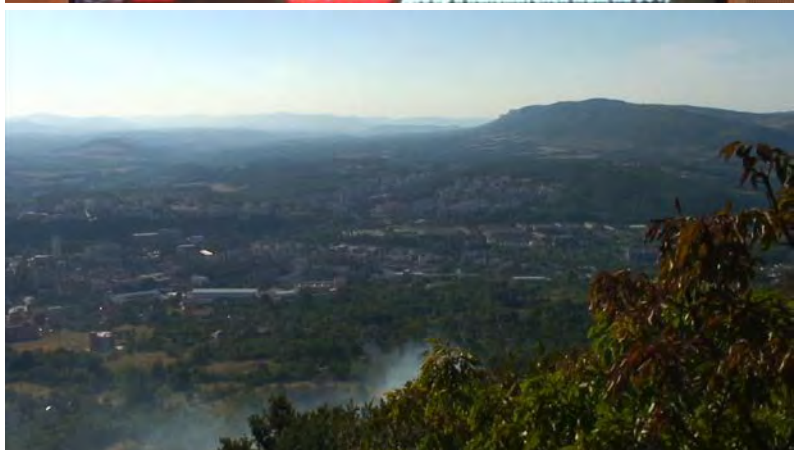
Directed, Edited, Screenplay, Sound Design: Simo Saarikoski

Camera: Simo Saarikoski, Vassil Garnizov

Interviewees: Simeon Abanos, Iva Todorova

Translations: Lora Dimova

Video follows the protests against government corruption in Bulgaria at summer 2013. The video draws a parallel between the experiences of two generations. The Communist regime that stayed in power up to 1989 is symbolised by the massive Buzludzha monument and its dilapidated present condition. Meanwhile, the younger generation protests against current stagnation. The video concentrates on two sites: the main stage of protests, the streets of the capital, Sofia, and the surroundings of the Buzludzha Monument in the Stara Planina mountains.



The Magic Kitchen

Stills from video

HDV / 16:9 / stereo / 21.04 min / Dialogue: Bulgarian / Subtitles: English, Finnish / 2012

Camera: Simo Saarikoski & Lora Dimova

Sound design & edit: imo Saarikoski

Translation & subtitles: Lora Dimova / Christopher Wessels

The video portrays the life in a small Balkan city at the edge of the European Union through its main character, Boriana Marinova. Video is a present day image of life in Bulgaria after more than twenty years since the fall of communism. It documents people who live their lives in the shadow of the past.