



*M.A.D.S.*

*Art Gallery Milano*

*«GALA ~ The Origin»*

*International Art Exhibition / March 26 ~ April 4 2021*

*Critical review*

*Alessia Perone, Senior Art Curator*

# ELS VAN EGERAAT

The artist Els van Egeraat presents for the exhibition “Gaia - The Origin” three works through which the act of painting is mixed in an innovative way with the experimentation of further techniques and the use of different materials. The use of magazines or wallpaper helps the artist to enter into a new dimension: the collage breaks the schemes, not only for the technique, but also for the form and content, opening the doors to fantastic worlds in which everything is possible; moreover, it allows to create a new connection with painting, so that the artist is able to give free space to her creativity. In addition to all these concepts, Els van Egeraat connects with what surrounds her, being able to see new and different realities and drawing inspiration from everything that can evoke positive feelings in her.





An example of this is represented in the work “**Open Mind**”: through this large canvas, the artist represents a long trail of many small floating elements, originating from the woman’s head.



This appears happy and relaxed, as opening one’s mind to the universe means being able to understand and learn new things every day, letting oneself be transported by incredible experiences. Everything is immersed in this particular shade of azure with blue brush strokes: in fact, this color represents the mind and truth, conveying serenity and harmony in the whole composition, by giving a considerable depth not only to the pictorial surface but also to the figure of the woman.

Instead, in “**Vivid**”, the artist focuses on the representation of one of the most important elements of the Belle Époque period, the hat. Made with the technique of collage, through the use of paper including wallpaper, Els van Egeraat seems to recall the portraits of the young women portrayed by Gustav Klimt: in fact, this technique becomes the main character of the work and the artist focuses on highlighting every single detail of this element, defining both the texture and every fold of the hat.

The young woman is caught which she is looking at someone or something, by turning her gaze to her left and, as in a photograph, the artist represents on the canvas a specific and significant moment. In addition to that, the white background emphasizes all the nuances used on the canvas to their fullest, giving a slight luminosity to the composition.







Finally, in **“Water Earth Sky”** the artist highlights abstract shapes, letting herself be guided by the pictorial matter. Starting with a paper and acrylic bases, she focuses on the color layering of the painting, in which each shade has the aim to express peace and intensity. All the elements are represented following the natural tones, emanating brightness and accentuating the different chromatic tones. Everything merges with the blue’s essence: the observer is immersed in a reflective state that brings him/her back into his/her own introspection, binding him/her in an indissoluble way with nature and the surrounding environment. Through a slight dynamism, the matter emerges from the canvas, where water, earth and sky invite the viewer to explore a parallel universe, a three-dimensional space consisting of numerous details and hidden cracks.