



Silke Mathé – In the Shimmer of Reality

Silke Mathé devotes herself to the hidden layers of our reality with great sensitivity. Her paintings reveal a world that seems familiar yet remains enigmatic – imbued with something that cannot be immediately named. What we perceive with our eyes is often only the surface. Mathé focuses on what lies beneath: the mysterious and enigmatic, which eludes the mind. Her visual language is not fixed, but opens itself up to the viewer and leaves room for diverse interpretations, moods, and intermediate worlds.

A central motif of her work is the forest. But it is not the idyll that attracts her, but the mysterious – the forest as a place of transformation and transition. Japanese forests in particular serve as a source of inspiration for her atmospherically dense scenes. Supernatural beings appear in them, influenced by Japanese mythology and pop culture: manga-like figures with oversized eyes, shadow spirits—so-called *yūreis*—and an often diffuse lighting mood lend these images an almost cinematic tension. This is not just about cultural symbolism, but about the deeper question of how we perceive reality and what happens when we begin to question it. Another focus of her work can be seen in her pieces dedicated to urban spaces—especially where she explores her native Norway or dune landscapes such as Sylt in a painterly manner. People, water, light, and movement enter into a sensitive dialogue here. The soft, often silvery refracted light of the north plays a central role: it bathes urban landscapes and maritime scenes in an atmosphere of clarity and, at the same time, quiet rapture. Mathé succeeds in transforming the seemingly everyday into a poetic, almost dreamlike visual world. Whether forest, water, or figure—her works always revolve around the question of reality and perception. Silke Mathé's art opens up spaces in which the familiar tilts and the unknown draws nearer. An art that does not explain, but makes tangible.

- Anna Bode