



ANNA KLAUS

MASQUERADES 2023



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ANNA KLAUS

Born 1959

Artistic debut: As an artist, switched to fetish themes in 1991

Lives and works in Kymenlaakso, Finland



Photo: John Knutas



Anna Klaus in Hamburg in 2003 at the Museum of Erotic Art in Hamburg at Peter W. Czernich's 50th birthday party.

Image courtesy of a private collection.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Finnish artist ANNA KLAUS studied painting under different teachers all through the 1970's. She has been drawing and painting semi-professionally since the mid-80's.

As a fetish artist ANNA KLAUS' works have appeared in many central European magazines since 1993. In 1995 the Dutch company SublieM published two of ANNA's paintings as postcards.

ANNA KLAUS' first fetish art solo exhibition was held at the Europerve gala (organized by Demask) in Amsterdam in 1998. Anna's international breakthrough came in 1999 at the first international fetish art fair, ArtBizarre 99 (organized by Marquis) in Cologne/Köln. With 50 exhibited paintings the Kinky Copenhagen event (organized by Bite The Apple / Manifest) in 2003 was so far the largest showing of ANNA KLAUS' artwork. From this exhibition some works were acquired by the Copenhagen Museum Erotica.

In 2004 visitors of the all-European netsite dom-unique.com voted ANNA KLAUS fetish painter of the year. In 2005 ANNA KLAUS exhibited at the Fetish Evolution Expo in Ratingen, Germany. At all of the fetish exhibitions mentioned above, ANNA KLAUS exhibited under the name Anna Kuritus. From the beginning of 2017 she changed her name to ANNA KLAUS.

In 2023 ANNA KLAUS held a 30-year retrospective exhibition as a fetish painter at Galleria A2 in Helsinki.

MASQUERADES

21.6.-5.7.2023

Anna Klaus’ art shows the magic of fetishes

Anna Klaus’ retrospective exhibition Masquerades will fill Gallery A2 in June. Finnish artist Klaus has been painting fetish-themed works since the 1990s, and her oeuvre spans three decades and includes a wide range of variations on the theme. She has worked with fetish costumes and products as well as her own versions of art history, painting both groups and individual portraits. Until 2017, Klaus painted under the pseudonym Anna Kuritus. The artist’s imagery opens up a view into the world of fetishes and its practices, but also serves as an excellent example of the possibilities of erotic art to embody the multiplicity of desires and identities.

Latex and rubber are recurrent materials in Klaus’s paintings. Both are carefully treated for their gloss and opacity and are depicted as sensual and erotically charged substances that fascinate and excite. Rubber and latex are the wearer’s uniform, but also another skin. A similar treatment is given to sexual acts, which the artist depicts in a way that makes the viewer perceive the broad spectrum of SM and its fascination. It is a question of roles and their playfulness, the sexualisation of the whole body and the imagination. Klaus describes her themes with warmth and passion, and sometimes with a touch of mischief. It is a fantasy, even if it is real and meaningful.

Klaus’s art world is like a kaleidoscope of desires, where different fetishes and interests take their place. Her art is both participatory and inclusive, as the viewer not only explores the world of fetishes, but can also identify their own interests. Klaus’s work includes paintings that comment on art history, in which the artist has realised her own version in a way that makes us see the art historical role model with new eyes. Hugo Simberg’s Halla has become, in Klaus’s treatment, a treatise on bondage and the pleasure that comes with it. Anna Klaus’s version is a tribute to the work of her historical colleague, but it also makes us wonder how to react to the fetishist version of Halla and how to deal with overt sexuality in art in general. Like Tom of Finland, Klaus creates her own imaginative and sexual utopia in which everyone can reflect on the nature of their own interests and their relationship to sexuality.

Anna Klaus (1959) studied painting in the 1970s and 1980s and made her debut as a fetish painter under the name Anna Kuritus in 1991. Her work was first exhibited abroad in 1995. Her work has been shown in numerous exhibitions and acquired by the Museum Erotica (Copenhagen) and numerous private collections in Europe and the United States. The exhibition at Gallery A2 is a retrospective of Klaus’s art from the 1990s to the present day.

Juha-Heikki Tihinen, PhD

NAAMIOHUVEJA

21.6.-5.7.2023

Anna Klausin taiteessa näkyy fetissien lumo

Anna Klausin retrospektiivinen näyttely Naamiohuveja täyttää kesäkuussa Galleria A2:n. Suomalaistaiteilija Klaus on maalannut fetissiaiheisia teoksia 1990-luvulta saakka, ja taiteilijan kolmen vuosikymmenen ajalle sijoittuvaan tuotantoon mahtuu mitä erilaisimpia variaatioita teemasta. Hän on käsitellyt teoksissaan niin fetissiasuja ja -tuotteita kuin omia versioitaan taidehistoriallista teoksista, maalannut sekä ryhmiä ja yksittäisiä muotokuvia. Klaus esiintyi vuoteen 2017 saakka nimimerkillä Anna Kuritus. Taiteilijan kuvasto avaa näkymän fetissien maailmaan ja sen käytäntöihin, mutta toimii samalla mainiona esimerkkinä eroottisen taiteen mahdollisuuksista ilmentää halujen ja identiteettien moninaisuutta.

Lateksi ja kumi ovat Klausin maalauksissa usein toistuvia materiaaleja. Molempien kiilto ja peittävyys saavat huolellisen käsittelyn, ja ne on kuvattu aistillisina ja eroottisesti latautuneina aineina, jotka kiehtovat ja kiihottavat. Kumi ja lateksi ovat kantajansa uniformu, mutta myös toinen iho. Samankaltaisen käsittelyn saavat seksuaaliset aktit, joita taiteilija kuvaa tavalla, jotka saavat katsojan hahmottamaan SM:n laajan kirjon ja sen kiehtovuuden. Kyse on rooleista ja niillä leikittelystä, koko kehon seksualisoitumisesta ja mielikuvituksesta. Klaus kuvaa aiheitaan lämmöllä ja intohimolla, ja välillä hieman ilkikurisestikin. Kysehän on fantasiasta, vaikka se onkin todellista ja merkityksellistä.

Klausin taiteen maailma on kuin halujen kaleidoskooppi, jossa erilaiset fetissit ja kiinnostukset saavat sijansa. Hänen taiteensa on sekä osallistuvaa että osallistavaa, kun katsoja sekä tutustuu fetissimaailmaan, mutta voi myös tunnistaa omia kiinnostuksenkohteitaan. Klausin tuotannossa oman sijansa saavat taidehistoriaa kommentoivat maalaukset, joissa taiteilija on toteuttanut oman versionsa tavalla, joka saa meidät näkemään taidehistoriallisen esikuvan uusin silmin. Hugo Simbergin Halla on muuttunut Klausin käsittelyssä tutkielmaksi sitomisesta ja siihen liittyvästä nautinnosta. Anna Klausin versio on kunnianosoitus historiallisen kollegansa teokselle, mutta se saa myös pohtimaan, miten reagoida Hallan fetisistiseen versioon ja, miten ylipäätään suhtautua taiteessa avoimeen seksuaalisuuteen. Tom of Finlandin tavoin Klaus luo oman mielikuvituksellisen ja seksuaalisen utopiansa, jonka äärellä jokainen voi miettiä omien kiinnostuksiensa luonnetta ja suhdettaan seksuaalisuuteen.

Anna Klaus (1959) on opiskellut maalausta 1970- ja 1980-luvuilla ja debytoi fetissimaalarina nimellä Anna Kuritus vuonna 1991. Hänen teoksiaan oli ensimmäistä kertaa esillä ulkomailla 1995. Hänen teoksiaan on nähty lukuisissa näyttelyissä ja niitä on hankittu muun muassa Museum Erotican (Kööpenhamina) ja lukuisiin yksityiskokoelmiin Euroopassa ja Yhdysvalloissa. Galleria A2:n näyttely on retrospektiivinen katsaus Klausin taiteesta 1990-luvulta tähän päivään.

FT Juha-Heikki Tihinen



(1) **The Dancer**, 2022
42 x 65 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(2) **Party II**, 2022
65 x 90 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(3) **Party I**, 2001
60 x 50 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(4) **Bathroom Scene**, 2005
50 x 60 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(5) **Madonna Greets Her Demon**, 2002
50 x 60 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas
Private collection



(6) Hommage á Stellan Mörner: Portrait of a Woman, 2018
37 x 46 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(7) To Give or to Receive, 2023
42 x 49 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(8) Herr oberst, 2022
Oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(9) The Dandy, 2022
42 x 65 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas
Private collection



(10) Rubber Women Disagree, 1998
46 x 55 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(11) Content in My Bubble, 2023
33 x 49 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(12) **Hommage á James Abbot McNeill Whistler: Composition Nr. 1 in Grey and Black; 'The Artist's Mother', 1997**
 60 x 80 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
 Photo: John Knutas



(13) **Hommage á Edouard Manet: Un bar aux Folies-Bergère, 2009**
 60 x 80 cm, *oil on canvas*
 Photo: John Knutas



(14) **Summer Night**, 2005
39 x 48 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(15) **Hommage á Raffaello: Tre Grazie**, 2019
37 x 46 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(16) **Blue**, 2021
46 x 55 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(17) **Wrestling**, 1998
60 x 80 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(18) **Hommage á Gallen-Kallela: Lemminkäinen's Mother**, 1997
60 x 80 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(19) **Helsinki by Night**, 2001
50 x 60 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(20) **Melancholia I**, 2012-2013
 35 x 55 cm, *oil on canvas*
 Photo: John Knutas



(21) **Shiny Rubber**, 1993
 25 x 15 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
 Photo: John Knutas



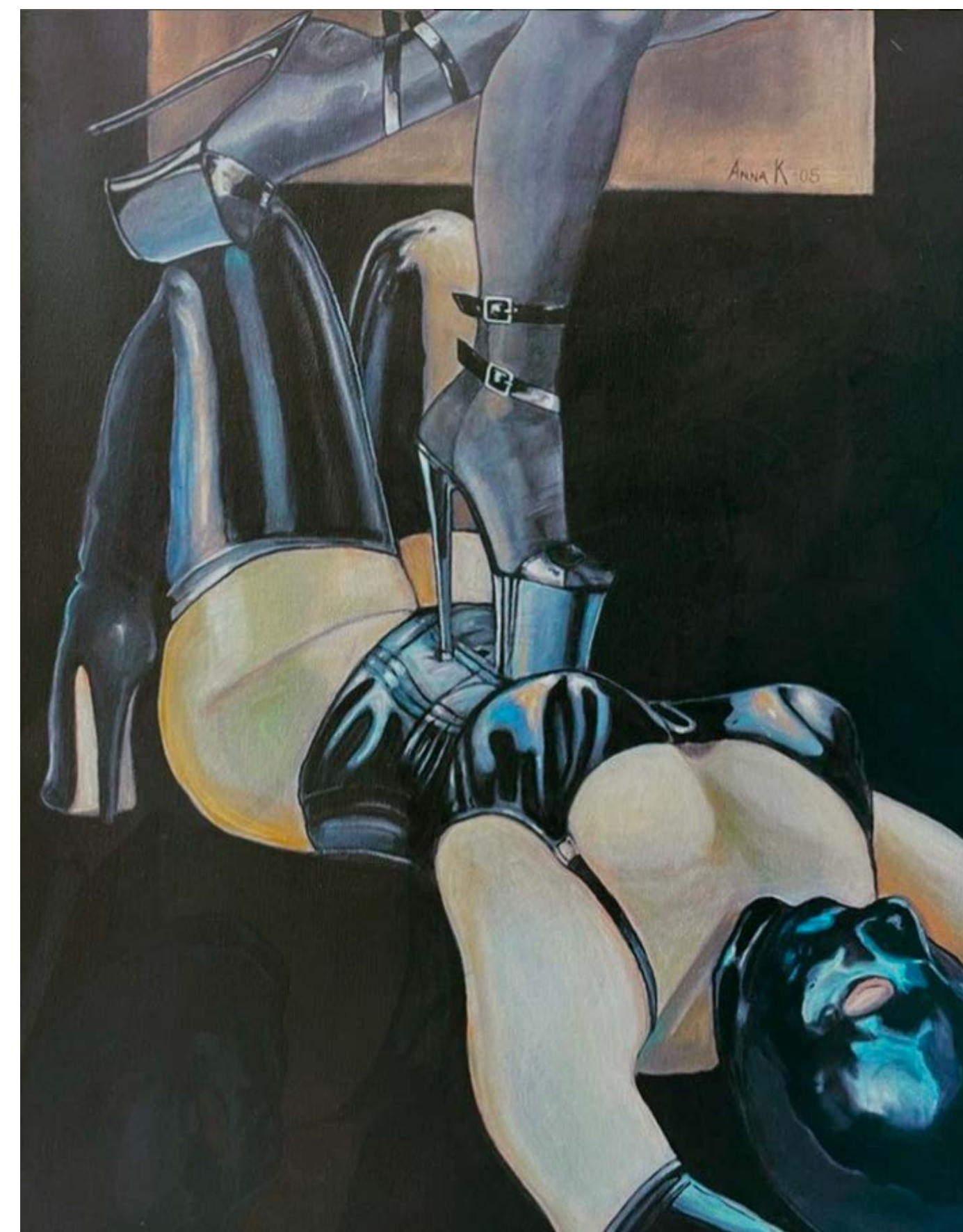
(22) **The Outsider**, 2018
 38 x 46 cm, *oil on canvas*
 Photo: John Knutas



(23) **Isolation**, 2021
 50 x 61 cm, *oil on canvas*
 Photo: John Knutas



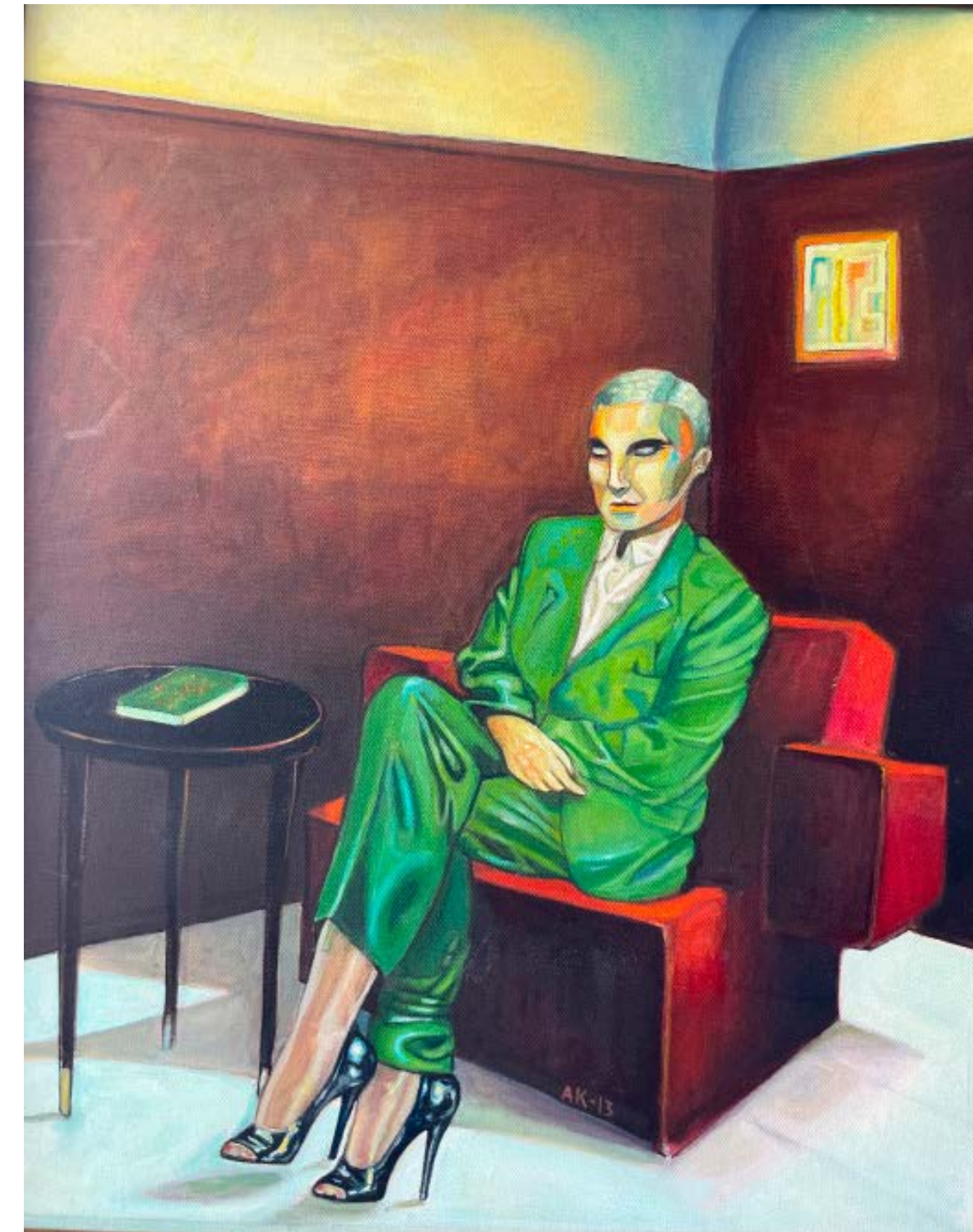
(24) **Das goldene Korsett**, 2015
60 x 60 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(25) **Nylon Submission**, 2005
60 x 77 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(26) **Space Crop**, 2004
50 x 60 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(27) **Man in Green Suit**, 2013
35 x 45 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(28) Red Dress, 2014
 33,5 x 41,5 cm, oil, canvas glued on cardboard
 Photo: John Knutas



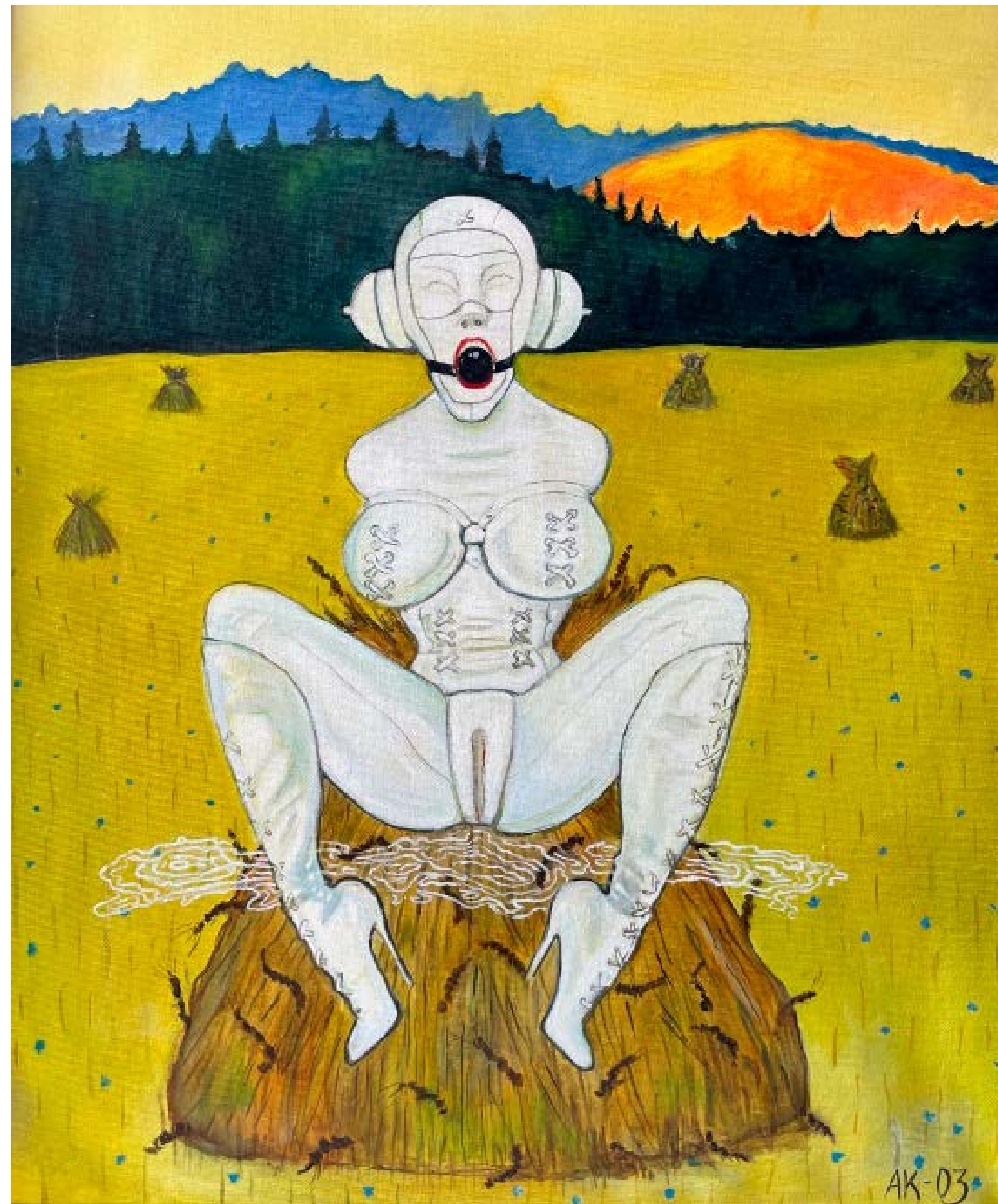
(29) Stockholm by Night, 2003
 50 x 60 cm, oil on canvas
 Photo: John Knutas



(30) Stig Christensen, 2022
42 x 65 cm, oil on cardboard
Photo: John Knutas



(31) Staircase of Life, 2013
50 x 70 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(32) Hommage a Hugo Simberg: Frosten, 2003
46 x 55 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



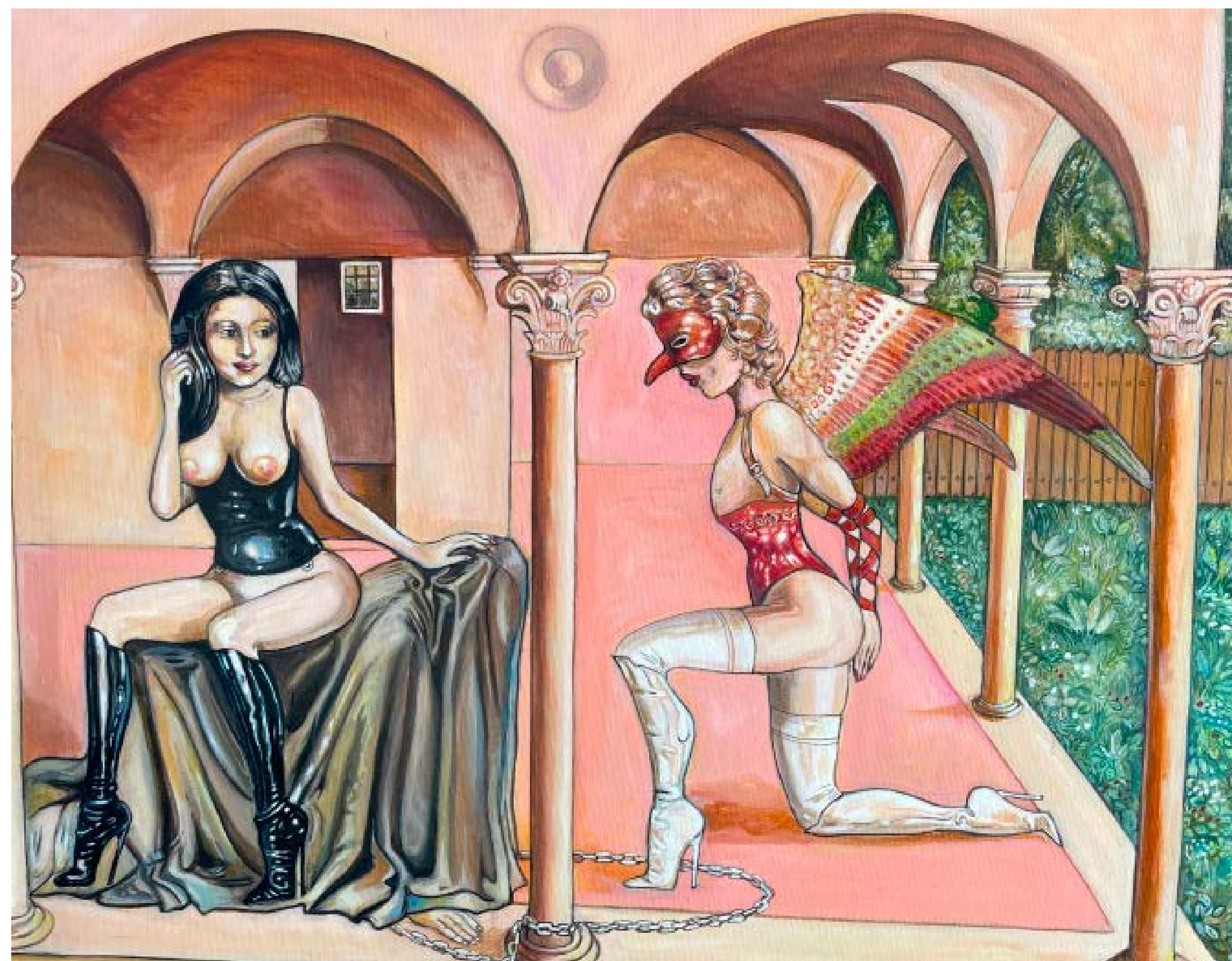
(33) Dreaming of Faraway Parties, 2023
44 x 50 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(34) **Melancholia II**, 2012
35 x 45 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(35) **Slave Walking**, 2004
50 x 61 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(36) **Hommage a Fra Angelico: Annunciazione**, 2004
50 x 60 cm, *acrylic on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(37) **Hommage a Greta Hällfors-Sipilä: Night (selfportrait)**, 2010
60 x 80 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas



(38) Czernich, Lempicka and Schjerfbeck, 2006
60 x 80 cm, acrylic on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(39) The Metaphysics of a Relationship (With a Nod to Ingres), 2024
50 x 60 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(40) Hommage a Max Ernst: La femme 100 tetes 2024
50 x 60 cm, oil on canvas
Photo: John Knutas



(41) Woman's Best Friend, 2024
 46 x 55 cm, oil on canvas
 Photo: John Knutas



(42) Yearning for Strong Leader 2024
 50 x 60cm, oil on canvas
 Photo: John Knutas



(43) **House of Harlot**, 2024
50 x 70 cm, *oil on canvas*
Photo: John Knutas

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