

MATTHIAS VAN ARKEL ANKARUDDEN

Opening 6th of February

BALAZSI - GALLERY

Carrer Nicolau de Pacs 25, 07006
Palma de Mallorca

Exhibition Text

Ankarudden

Balazsi is pleased to announce Ankarudden, which is not presented as a traditional landscape, but as a working condition exposed to nature.

The exhibition takes its name from Ankarudden, in the Swedish archipelago, where van Arkel has recently established a new studio. The weather, light, and vegetation of the archipelago have strongly influenced his work.

Van Arkel's process combines careful preparation with active decision-making. Pigmented silicone is mixed, spread, and shaped, producing elements—using a roller mill—that function as physical brushstrokes. These elements are then selected, cut, moved, and assembled. Each step demands attention and balance, and every painting carries the memory of its own construction.

Silicone became central to van Arkel's practice through experimentation and experience, following his early training as an oil painter. The material allows a more expansive and direct approach, bridging painting and sculpture. Its transparency, strength, and durability support a process of accumulation and adjustment while maintaining a pronounced sense of surface. The stability of silicone ensures that the works endure over time, asserting themselves as solid, lasting objects. Color plays a key role in van Arkel's practice. The palette is wide and layered, enabling multiple tones to coexist. Color generates tension, rhythm, and movement, encouraging close attention. As forms accumulate, expand, and shift, associations with landscape emerge, creating spaces that remain open and changeable. These impressions arise both from the artist's working process and the viewer's perception.

Physical engagement is central to the experience of the work. The surfaces invite closeness, encouraging the viewer to engage through sight and touch, forming a personal response. Meaning emerges through this encounter. The exhibition presents painting as immediate, physical, and visual.

All works, except one, were created specifically for this exhibition.

BIO

Matthias van Arkel (b. 1967, Stockholm) lives and works in Stockholm. He studied at the Royal Institute of Fine Arts (Kungliga Konsthögskolan) and received his MFA (Master of Fine Arts) from the University of Arts, Crafts and Design (Konstfack), Stockholm.

Van Arkel's work begins with painting, but gently asks a wider question to explore what a painting can be today. Engaging in conceptual dialogues between painting, sculpture, and spatial installation, van Arkel works primarily with silicone, alongside bronze. Silicone is often considered industrial, but plays a significant role in his art practice with its flexible and responsive nature. Shaped by hand, it reacts directly and sensitively. It bends, stretches, and settles, acquiring an organic and almost bodily presence. This allows the works to be free from fixed positions; they don't stay still, but lean toward the viewer. In this way, van Arkel's works occupy a space between flat and three-dimensional.

For van Arkel, material is never just material. Through color, mass, repetition, and space, van Arkel explores how we sense the world and how we move within it. His works do not explain themselves. They invite us to slow down, to look from different distances, and even to touch them, in order to notice how perception changes as we move. Meaning appears gradually, through attention rather than instruction.

The titles of his works may sound simple, yet the works themselves often convey something tender, poetic, and powerful at the same time. Beneath their structured surfaces lies a sensitivity that is connected to him personally. Van Arkel's works do not seek to be fully understood at once; they linger, fostering a heightened awareness of one's own presence in the space between object and viewer.

Van Arkel has exhibited widely in Scandinavia, such as in Sweden and Denmark, as well as across Europe in Germany, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, and in the United States. He has also realized numerous permanent public art projects developed in close dialogue with architecture. His work is included in public and private collections throughout Europe and North America, including Moderna Museet, Stockholm.



CV

Education

Kungliga Konsthögskolan Royal Institute of Fine Arts Stockholm, SE, 1991-93

MFA-Master in Fine Art, Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design Stockholm, SE, 986-91

Solo Show

2026

Ankarudden, Balazsi Gallery Palma de Mallorca, SP

Sculptures

The Corner Gallery Andes, NY, USA

2024-25

Morris Adjmi Architect Office NYC, USA

2024

Vägen Teatergrillen Stockholm, SE

2023 Baroque P-Gallery Palma, SP

High Density Björkholmen Gallery Stockholm, SE

2022

Stripe Paintings Galleri Hammarén Gothenburg, SE

Dunkers Kulturhus Entrance hall show 2022-25 Helsingborg, SE

2021

Stripe Paintings Björkholmen Gallery Stockholm, SE

2020

Höganäs Museum Höganäs, SE

2018

Relations Galerie Forsblom Stockholm, SE

Galleri Hammarén Gothenburg, SE

2016

Altered Measurement, Clear Painting Cecilia Hillström Gallery Stockholm, SE

Matthias van Arkel Morris Adjmi Architects New York City, USA

2013

Loop, Cecilia Hillström Gallery Stockholm, SE

Market At Large Special project for entrance with Cecilia Hillström Gallery

The Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts Stockholm, SE

2012

Vigorous Aggradations Art Affairs Gallery Amsterdam, NL

Mårtenson och Persson Västra Karup, SE

2011

Please Touch the Artwork Andersson/Sandström Gallery Umeå, SE

2010

Closer, Galerie Aronowitzsch, Stockholm, SE

Höganäs Museum Höganäs, SE

2008

Open Studio show

Elizabeth Foundations for the Arts New York, USA

Silicone Dreams Galerie Aronowitzsch Stockholm, SE

2007

Box of Bricks Skärets Konsthall Höganäs, SE

2006

For you, Dad Galerie Aronowitzsch Stockholm, SE

2004

Constant Pressure Galleri 54 Gothenburg, SE

Silicone Variations Galleri Magnus Åklundh Malmö, SE

Galerie Aronowitzsch Stockholm, SE

2002-03

Botkyrka Konsthall together with Per Kesselmar Tumba, SE

2001-02

Galleri Mariann Ahnlund together with Lars Arrhenius Umeå, SE

2000

Galleri C Hjärne Helsingborg, SE

100 liter bränd Sienna Claesson Koivisto Rune, Architect Office, Stockholm, SE

Galleri Susanne Pettersson Norrköping, SE

1998

Galerie Aronowitsch Stockholm, SE

Group Show**2025**

Generative Alterities Opening Gallery NYC, USA

2023

Explosive Visions, Black Iris at One Space Maria Nordin

Gunilla Klingberg, Johan Thurfjell, Matthias van Arkel, Stefan Otto, Anneè Olofsson,

Juan Pedro Fabra,

Guemberena, Anna Camner, Ulrika Sparre, Marcus Mårtenson, Julia Peirone, Éva Mag Stockholm, SE

2019

Within Realities

Alma Löv Art Museum Ö Ämtervik, SE

2017

Think Paint

UNIX Gallery Fabian Marcaccio Lydia Dona Jonathan Lasker Pia Fries

Pedro Barbeito Matthias van Arkel Joan Waltemath NYC, USA

2016

Borås International Sculpture Biennale Sweden

2014

Catch as Catch Can Margaret Thatcher Projects New York, USA

Galerie Örsta

Anders Krisár, Roger Metto, Matthias van Arkel Kumla, SE

2012

Klang och Jubel 2002-2012 Skärets Konsthall, SE

Galleri Mårtenson & Persson Båstad, SE

Galerie Aronowitsch

En Subjektiv Historia 1966-2011

The Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts Stockholm, SE

Dimensioner på Glid Marcus, Partos, van Arkel Stockholm, SE

2010

Nordic Mixed Media

The American Scandinavian Society New York, USA

Höganäs Museum, Höganäs, SE

2008

Present

The Alma Löv Museum Ö Ämtervik, SE

2007

Transitions

Curated by M van Arkel Galerie Aronowitsch Stockholm, SE

2004

Skulpturens Hus, Curated by M van Arkel and F Söderberg Stockholm, SE
Petra Lindholm, Jonas Nobel, Christine Ödlund, Matti Kallioinen, Fredrik Söderberg
Matthias van Arkel

Moving In

Hemma hos Fredrik c/o Andrén-Schiptjenko Stockholm, SE

Nytt:

Galerie Aronowitsch Stockholm, SE

2003

Invasion, Dunkers Kulturhus Helsingborg, SE

Adagio, Gävle Konstcentrum Gävle, SE

Galerie Aronowitsch Stockholm, SE

2000

Galleri C Hjärne Helsingborg, SE

Niklas von Bartha Gallery London, GB

1995

Galerie Aronowitsch Stockholm, SE

Represented

Private collections in USA, Great Britain, Germany, Holland and Scandinavia

Moderna Museet in Stockholm, SE

Borås Art Museum, SE

Ståhl Collection, SE

The National Public Art Council, Stockholm, SE The Stockholm Public Art Council, Stockholm, SE The

National

Library of France, Paris, FR

The SOKO Art Collection, Helsinki, FI

Public Artworks**2021**

Kv. Priceton

Solna, Stockholm, SE 2019

Vasakronan, Stockholm, SE

2016

The Williams Building, Williamsburg, New York, USA

2016

Värtahamnen, Stockholms Hamnar, Stockholm, SE 2015 Atlantic Plumbing, Washington, USA

2013

Kv. Caroli, Malmö, SE

2012

Kumla Badhus, Kumla, SE

2011

SL Stockholm Transport, Jakobsberg, SE

2006

Hässelbyhallen, Stockholm, SE

2005

Svenska Bostäder, Nybohov, Stockholm, SE

2002

Dialysen, Södersjukhuset, Stockholm, SE

Rotemannen, Alby kulturhus, Stockholm, SE

1990

Luma företagsby, Stockholm, SE

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GALLERY

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