

Press Release

Ida Ekblad
SEPTIC SUN

14 June – 6 September 2025
Opening 13 June, 6 – 8 pm

SEPTIC SUN

A letter arrived in wicked times about solar sepsis and dirty light. A letter from my throat and nails with writing as big as the Ritz. Words stood next to glass and words, glass stood next to words and graf. Bronze across some ashy sky. And the crows blink sideways now.

A poisoned egg, a rotten yolk. A stick, some roots, a pipe, a stove. There is a smell of teary eyes and tile and lace and tiles. But something hardened day and night, a lava wrack, a nuclear shine and fuck this letter better explain. Alas, I'm melting once again.

I.E

Karma International is excited to announce SEPTIC SUN, an all-encompassing solo exhibition by Norwegian artist Ida Ekblad (b. 1980 in Oslo; lives and works in Oslo), spanning the three spaces of the gallery. The exhibition opens on Friday, 13 June, coinciding with Zurich Art Weekend.

Known for her joyful and strong-willed approach to painting, poetry, and sculpture, Ekblad introduces several new bodies of work in SEPTIC SUN, each infused with her signature creativity and playful approach to both ancient and newly invented techniques, styles, and stylistic “no-gos,” all revolving around the topic of light and heat.

Created in Murano, Italy, three new glass pieces draw on the island’s centuries-old glassmaking tradition to translate Ekblad’s idiosyncratic patterns into unique objects that burst with wild imaginativeness. Taking up the translucent qualities of the Murano works, illuminated sculptures are spread throughout the spaces.

Mimicking archaic forms and covered in hand-enameled copper tiles, each sculpture features a fused glass center lit from behind. These works, that draw on light and transparency, standing in disparity to a much more opaque series of bronze sand-casts, which resemble crawling shapes, growing branches, and sprawling flora, shimmering in earthy and golden tones.

A centerpiece of the exhibition is a functioning stove, engraved with cryptic symbols and a portrait of the artist’s sleeping daughter. Capable of radiating heat, the piece evokes a homey atmosphere, like an invitation to gather around with family. In contrast, a new series of oil paintings—washed in white tones and layered with painted lace or plastisol surfaces reminiscent of quicksilver—emit a rather cool energy. Their iridescent bluish-green frames, sprayed with car lacquer, further emphasize this frosty aesthetic.

SEPTIC SUN invites viewers to traverse Ekblad’s multi-layered universe: a landscape where expressive color, material experimentation, and art historical references collide. The exhibition highlights Ekblad’s ability to transform traditional materials and forms, reflecting her deep engagement with both past and present, high and low culture, a mischievous sense of ugliness and beauty.

Ida Ekblad (*1980, Oslo) lives and works in Oslo. She studied at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (2007) and the Mountain School of Arts, Los Angeles, USA (2008). She participated in the Venice Biennale in 2011 and 2017. In recent years, her work has been exhibited internationally, with major solo exhibitions at Kunsthaus Zürich for their ongoing *ReCollect!* shows (2023-24), together with Matias Faldbakken; Kunstneres Hus, Oslo (2021); Kunsthalle Zürich, Zurich and Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (2019); Kunstverein Braunschweig, Braunschweig (2018); Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg (2017); The National Museum of Art, Design and Architecture, Oslo (2013); Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen and Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2010). SEPTIC SUN is the fourth solo show of Ida Ekblad at Karma International.

Ekblad's work is owned by a multitude of important public and private institutions and collections around the world, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France; Kunsthaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland; Aishti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, Switzerland; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA; British Museum, London, United Kingdom; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Saastamoinen Foundation, Helsinki, Finland; KODE Art Museums and Composer Homes, Bergen, Norway; Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway; and the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, Norway.