

Annemari Vardanyan

Inside My Mind

March 25 - April 29, 2023



Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present a solo exhibition titled *Inside My Mind* by Prague-based artist Annemari Vardanyan. The exhibition will feature eight large-scale unstretched paintings on canvas stapled directly to the walls of the gallery, as well as four medium-sized canvas works. Originally from Armenia, Vardanyan's works depict quotidian scenes of life as a student—at home in her bedroom, with groups of fellow classmates hanging out, or simply a wall with windows in her home. These psychological portraits explore the spaces between uncertainty and place, and between alienation and hope. A recent graduate of The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague this will be Vardanyan's first solo exhibition.

Vardanyan's practice has roots in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the ethnic and territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan that has been ongoing since 1988, and which eventually led Vardanyan's family to flee the region. While Vardanyan was young when her family left Armenia, bringing few worldly possessions and a hope for a better life free of conflict and ethnic persecution, she spent her teenage years not just developing her own sense of self and purpose, but acclimating to a new culture, while attempting with her family to retain vestiges their own ethnic heritage. Vardanyan's experiences are reflected in works that can appear mundane and almost universal in depictions of young students dressed in clothes influenced by a global culture, the result of years of social media and the spread of the internet. However, her experiences do not go unnoticed as a sense of quietness appears in the works. The artist explains "the title of the exhibition, *Inside My Mind*, stems from this idea that behind the curtain of everyday banality, each of us can see a completely different reality."

The paintings in *Inside My Mind* illustrate the artist coming to terms with her own identity. Often the works depict the same figure in different positions in the same room. Vardanyan discusses, "I have always had the strong feeling that a person's identity should come primarily from their inner individuality, from the realm of the most intimate experience, which gradually has the potential to reveal to us the horizon of broader social, historical, cultural, and political contexts." As time past living in the Czech Republic, Vardanyan realized that her new home would become part of herself, however through her paintings she depicts subtle references to her homeland. Armenian iconography such as carpet patterns that dissolve into the curtains are depicted in the works. The installation of the unstretched canvases themselves is a reference to a mode of hanging carpets, in addition to a means of envisioning a larger work and expanded narrative. For Vardanyan that expanded narrative is not just one of her own life and continued development of self, but also an acknowledgment that while her personal experience has and can still feel isolating, it is in fact human—reflecting that her emotions have been and are felt by many others.

Annemari Vardanyan was born in Yerevan, Armenia in 1994 and lives and works in Prague, CZ. She is a graduate of The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague having studied in Jiří Petrbok's drawing studio.

For more information please contact: info@lowellryanprojects.com





Annemari Vardanyan
In my mind III.
2023
Acrylic on canvas
106 3/8h x 80 1/2w inches
270h x 204w cm
AV-001



Annemari Vardanyan
In my mind III. (detail), 2023





Annemari Vardanyan

In my mind II.

2023

Acrylic on canvas

105 1/2h x 128 1/2w inches

268h x 326w cm

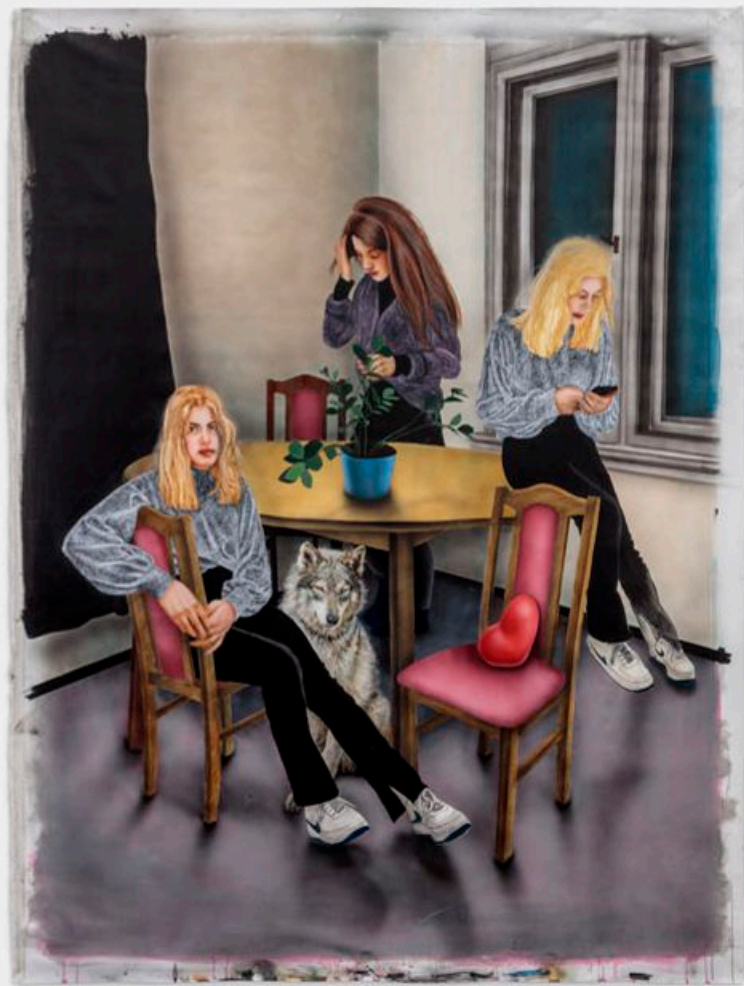
AV-002

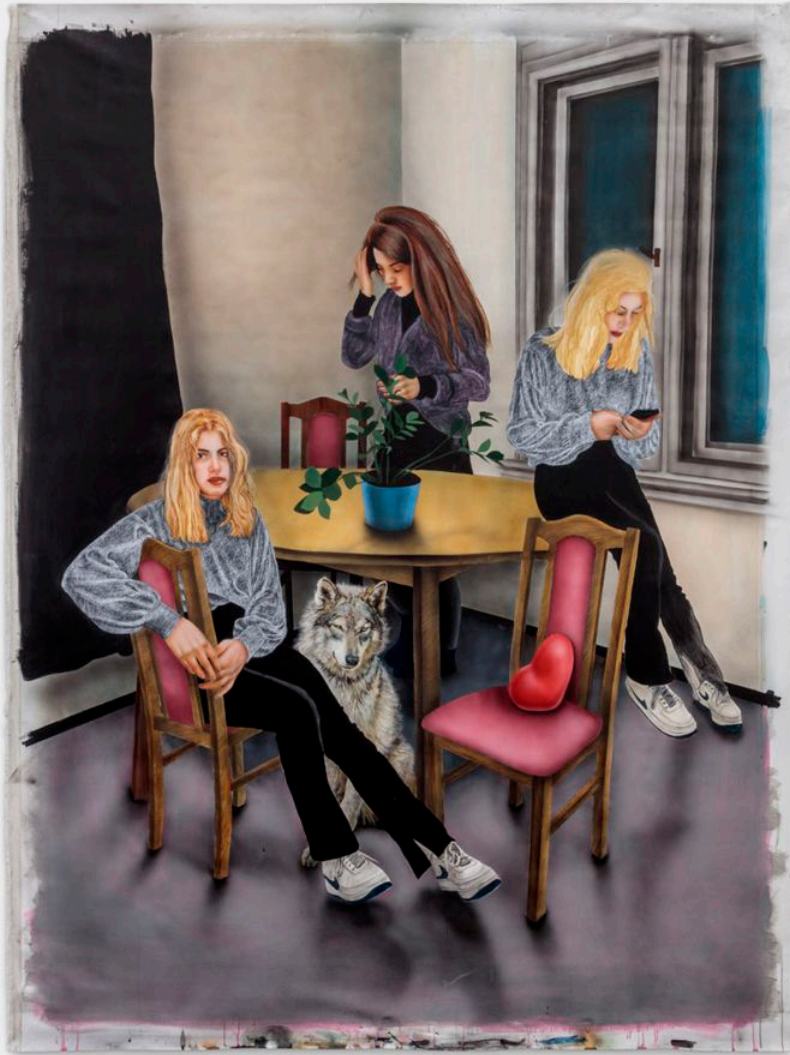


Annemari Vardanyan
In my mind II. (detail), 2023



Annemari Vardanyan, *In my mind II*. (detail), 2023





Annemari Vardanyan
We are many but at the end, we are the one III.
2021
Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas
106h x 81w inches
269h x 206w cm
AV-003



Annemari Vardanyan
We are many but at the end, we are the one III.
(detail), 2021

Annemari Vardanyan
From series *I'm here*
2022
Acrylic on canvas
48h x 41w inches
122h x 104w cm
AV-010

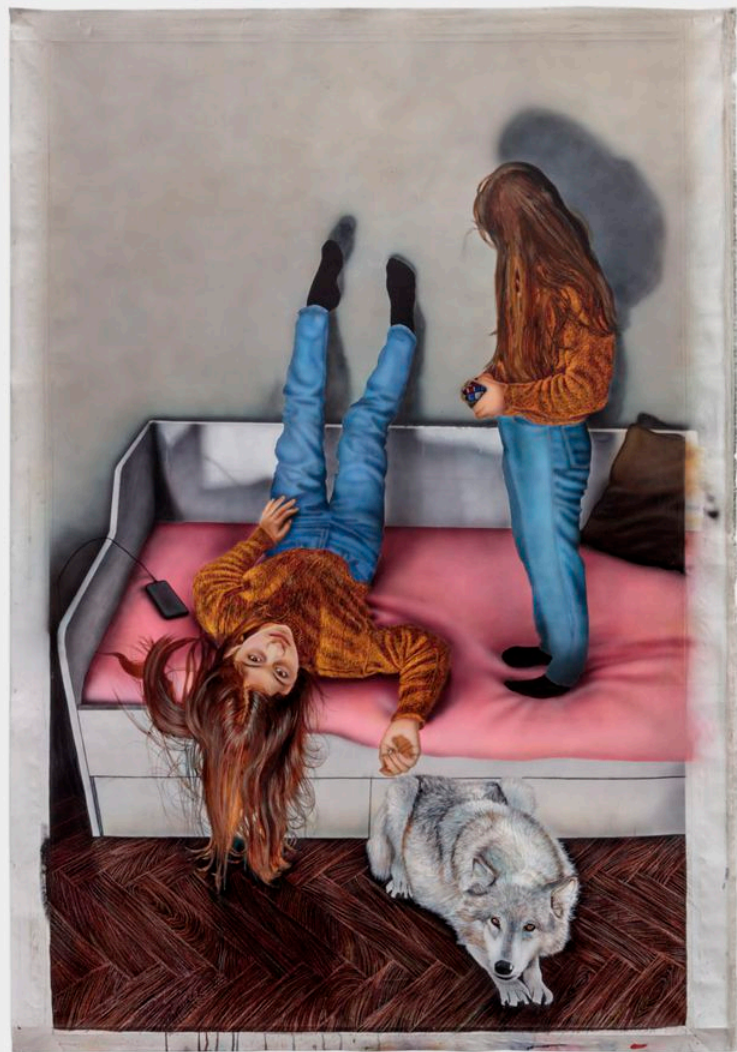




Annemari Vardanyan
From series *I'm here*
2022
Acrylic on canvas
48h x 41w inches
122h x 104w cm
AV-009







Annemari Vardanyan
Shadows of forgotten ancestors
2021
Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas
104h x 72w inches
264h x 183w cm
AV-004



Annemari Vardanyan
Shadows of forgotten ancestors (detail), 2021



Annemari Vardanyan

In my mind I.

2023

Acrylic on canvas

105 1/2h x 128 1/2w inches

268h x 326w cm

AV-005



Annemari Vardanyan
In my mind I. (detail), 2023







Annemari Vardanyan
Sona
2023
Acrylic on canvas
108h x 70 1/2w inches
274h x 179w cm
AV-006



Annemari Vardanyan
Sona (detail), 2023





Annemari Vardanyan
From series I'm here
2022
Acrylic and ink on canvas
29h x 42w inches
74h x 107w cm
AV-012



Annemari Vardanyan
From series I'm here
2022
Acrylic and ink on canvas
29h x 42w inches
74h x 107w cm
AV-012



Annemari Vardanyan
No one will be here until we leave
2021
Acrylic on canvas
87h x 77 1/2w inches
221h x 197w cm
AV-007



Annemari Vardanyan, No one will be here until we leave (detail), 2021







Annemari Vardanyan, *A few seconds before happiness*, 2022

Annemari Vardanyan
A few seconds before happiness
2022
Acrylic on canvas
87h x 126w inches
221h x 320w cm
AV-008



Annemari Vardanyan
A few seconds before happiness (detail), 2022

Annemari Vardanyan
A few seconds before happiness (detail), 2022





Annemari Vardanyan in her studio in Prague, CZ, 2023



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