

Anu Ramdas
Lucem Interiorem

09 March - 09 April 2023

OTP Copenhagen is proud to present *Lucem Interiorem*, the debut solo exhibition with the gallery by Copenhagen-based artist and clairvoyant Anu Ramdas (b. 1980, Sønderborg; DK). Featuring selected works on paper produced between 2018 and 2021, *Lucem Interiorem* charts the development of the artist's esoteric drawing practice. Beginning with examples of the smaller-scale compositions that birthed Ramdas' abstract geometric style, the exhibition also includes several of the radiant biomorphic images that formed the basis of the artist's first significant Danish museum show at the Museet for Religiøs Kunst (Lemvig; DK) in 2022.

Having struggled for many years to find an appropriate visual language to express the awareness of and communicative impulse she felt towards external spiritual presences, Ramdas in-fact first began drawing as a way to depict immediate bodily sensation. During periods of meditation, the artist would begin to feel parts of her body manifesting themselves in terms of specific forms and colours. Picking up a pencil and paper immediately after these sessions, Ramdas began to depict abstract self-portraits that combined a personal and anatomical self-awareness with a universal otherworldly aesthetic. Many viewers report feeling a kind of correspondence between the forms in these works and parts of their own bodies and the artist talks about these images as *mirrors* — ones that encourage a recognition of how co-incidental bodily appearance is, but also that contemplate and explore the concrete ways in which form and colour effect and determine people's experience of the world.

Composed of bright spheres, smooth bulbs, and other voluminous growths with sharp boundaries, Ramdas' drawings appear just as creature-like as they do floral, robotic, ovarian and cosmological. The latter effect is compounded by the fact that Ramdas senses the individual shapes in her drawings as independently rotating objects, each spinning on its own vertical axis like miniaturised planets or atomic particles. In this way these drawings inhabit an ambiguous spatial plane that is at once macro- and microcosmic. Whilst the artist was initially surprised by the dissimilarity between each drawing she was producing, the reason for the difference is easy to explain: the concentration of energy in space is never constant over time, and fundamentally, neither are humans. Our emotions, feelings, thoughts and physical forms exist in a constant state of flux. In many ways Ramdas' works embrace how humans and their circumstances change as we seek to know ourselves and realise our potential.

An interest in quantum physics and quantum field theory underpins many of these works, but the foundation of Ramdas's practice lies in Indian mysticism, The Vedas and other essential Hindu texts. "My Indian background and the spiritual and ritual experiences I felt as a child in the temples and at family gatherings in India have had a very important impact on my curiosity towards how to visualise the invisible forces of nature," says the artist herself. More recently, Tantric philosophy has helped to provide Ramdas with a framework to understand these experiences, as have the Neo-Tantric aesthetics of artists such as Ghulam Rasool Santosh and Sohan Qadri and texts associated with the development of Theosophy and Afrofuturism.

Whilst the artist has always remained fascinated with the spiritual world, it was not until after starting an education in clairvoyance in 2021 that she began to realise that the forms she was sensing during meditation were a form of clairvoyant perception. From this time onwards, she has been wilfully developing the skills to channel messages from spiritual guides (both her own and those of others). The most recent images in this exhibition mark the beginning of a period in which Ramdas' artistic and clairvoyant practices have become inter-twined. As the artist's expressive and abstract approach towards figuration coalesces with an impulse to connect with and visualise the invisible social forces that surround us and operate in the world, Ramdas' work takes on new significance. Now these works come to embody messages that blend biographical references with bodily experience, self-knowledge with broader ideas about human potential, and an acceptance that change must and will effect our lives and our societies, from now into the future.

Anu Ramdas graduated from the MFA programme at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art (Copenhagen; DK) in 2011 having completed additional study at The Central Academy of Fine Art (Beijing; CN) from 2009 to 2010 and Malmö Art Academy (Malmö; SE) from 2004 to 2006. From 2014 to 2022 Ramdas held the position of teaching assistant in the Media Lab at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. The artist would like to thank The Danish Art Council and Staedtler Nordic for their support in the production of the works included in this exhibition.