

Maija Toropainen  
**THE PARTY** 2016

**Maija Toropainen**  
**THE PARTY**

Paintings

## THE PARTY

The title is an obvious play on words. A party is a political entity or an act of celebration.

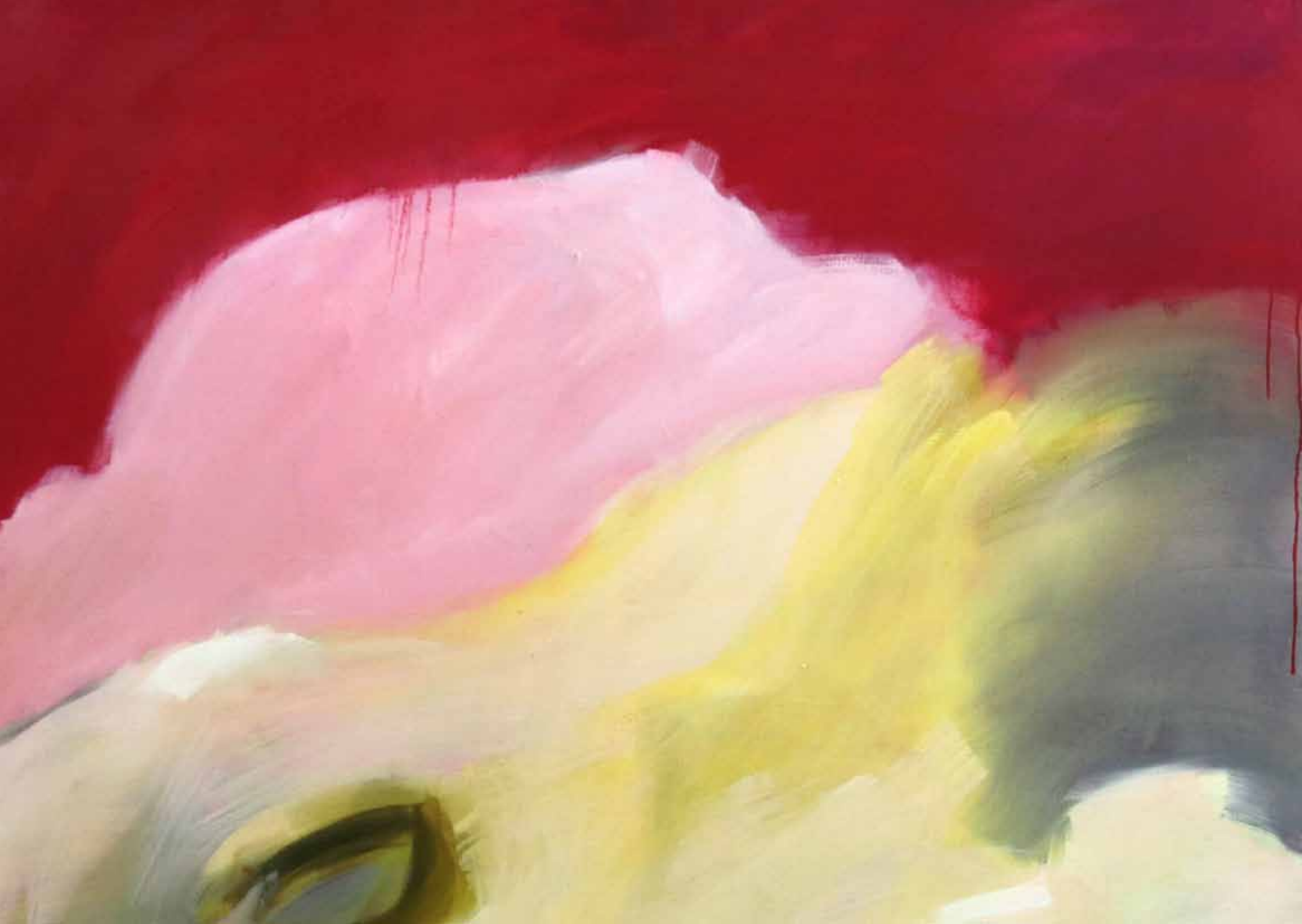
The political theme of this exhibition came to me when I was in the Library of the Labour Movement in Helsinki browsing through some books about the DDR. In the books people were smiling happily. Everybody was laughing. Work seemed easy, without toil, almost like having a party. But the totalitarian state became paranoid and suspicious of its own citizens and the citizens lost their faith on ideals. Or maybe it is the other way around.

Both meanings of the word, an all-powerful party leading the society and a merry festivity get an abstract representation in my paintings. In my canvases, reds and turquoises with their powerful and energetic feel are a recurrent pair of colors.

Inspiration for naming of my works came from browsing through the minutes of the famous 1903 party conference proceedings of the Social Democratic Party in Finland. Fundamental idea of the conference was that Without demands there won't be any improvements. The Six-hour working day and It's time to stop and re-think the whole Trade Agenda are almost identical demands of our time.

A life without a holiday is like a long journey without an inn to rest at. So we should have a party every now and then. There is a pleasant excitement while organizing a party. There was a cheerful bustle of the crowd. When guests start arriving they will feel the excitement building up. But the ice breaks and the party gets started when you join in with friendly, open and curious mind. But Nobody really cares if you don't go to the Party.

The paintings shown in this booklet have been exhibited at the Galerie Pleiku in august 2016.





**The Party**  
oil painting, 125 cm x 115 cm, 2016



Day after day it was gray but it never rained  
oil painting, 125 cm x 115 cm, 2016



**I move that this time we make no binding resolution**  
oil painting, 125 cm x 115 cm, 2016



**Struggle**  
oil painting, 32 cm x 27 cm, 2016





**Entourage**  
oil painting, 36 cm x 30 cm, 2016



**The right to hunt and fish must be made independent of the land ownership without delay**  
oil painting, 49 cm x 60 cm, 2016



**Carriers of the flag will get tired**  
oil painting, 61 cm x 83 cm, 2016



**Unity**  
oil painting, 36 cm x 30 cm, 2016



**There was a great hustle and bustle of the crowd**  
oil painting, 49 cm x 61 cm, 2016



**Without demands there won't  
be any improvements**  
oil painting, 61 cm x 83 cm, 2016



**Everybody was laughing heartily**  
oil painting, 74 cm x 86 cm, 2016



**It is time to stop and rethink the whole trade agenda**  
oil painting, 125 cm x 115 cm, 2016

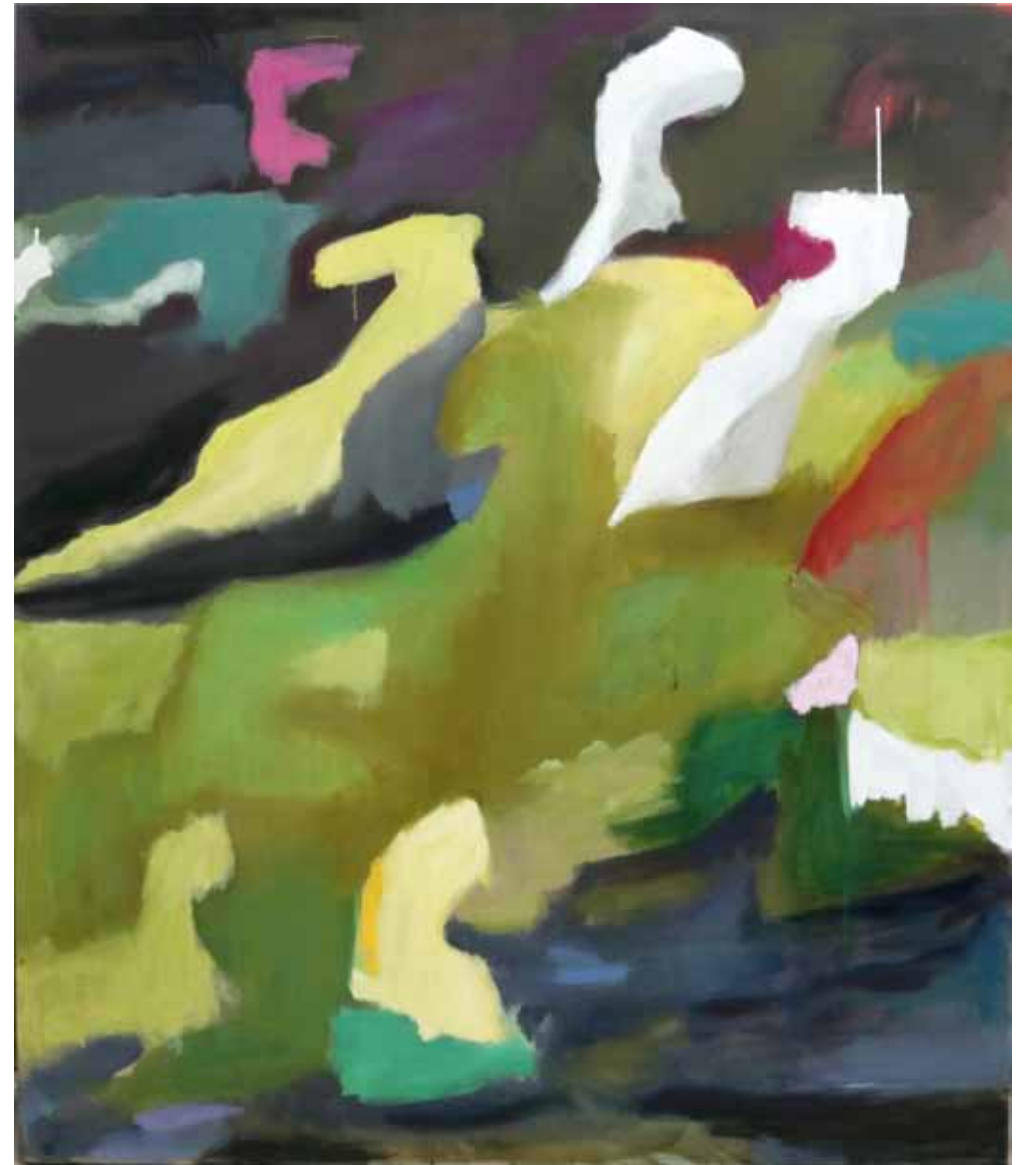




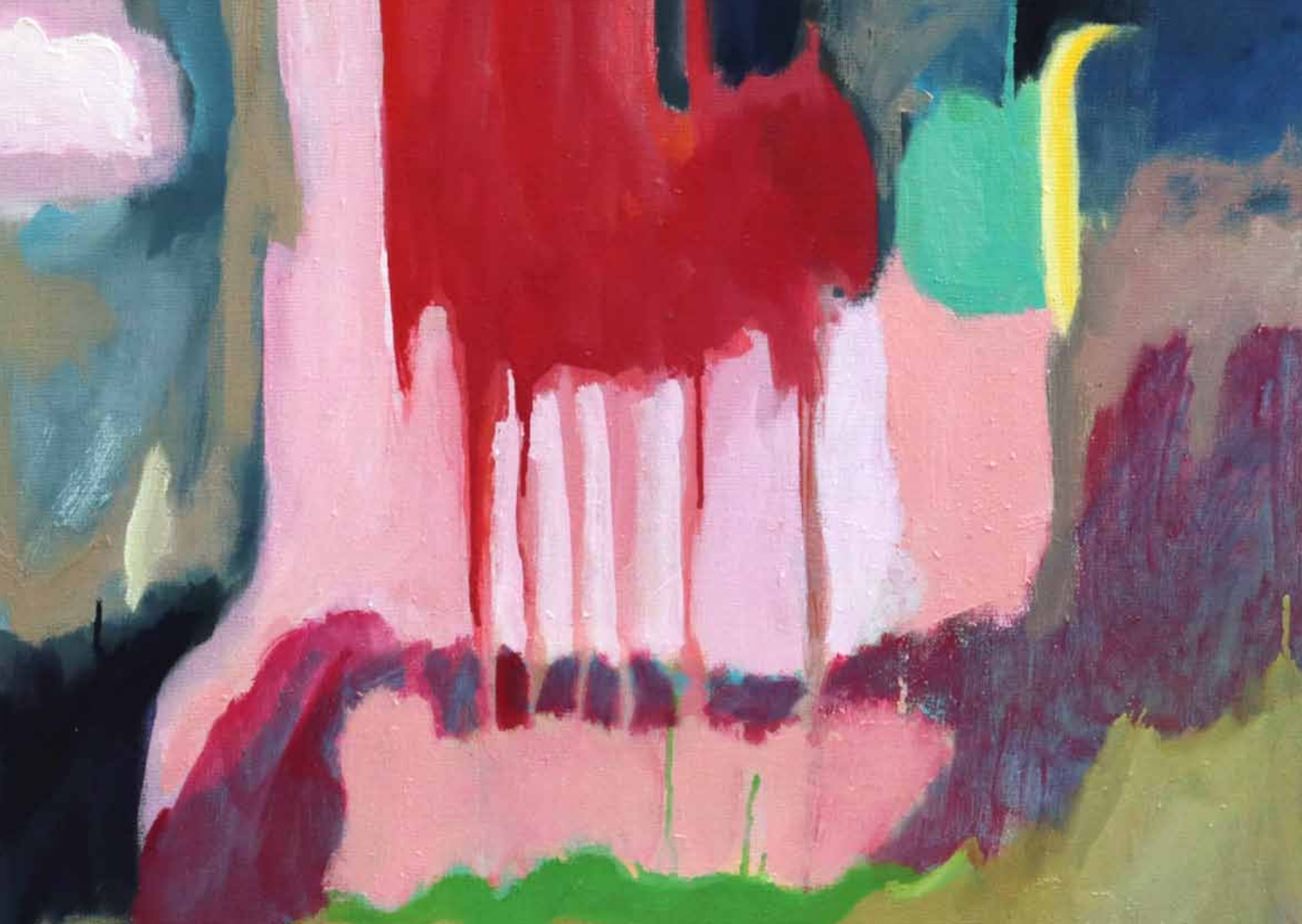
**Inquisitive and approachable**  
oil painting, 40 cm x 45 cm, 2016



**Six hour work day**  
oil painting, 36 cm x 26 cm, 2016



**Mosquitoes danced in their own direction**  
oil painting, 125 cm x 115 cm, 2016



**Nobody really cares if you don't go to the Party**  
oil painting, 36 cm x 27 cm, 2016





**A life without a holiday is like a long  
journey without an inn to rest at**  
oil painting, 74 cm x 86 cm, 2016



**Forward**  
oil painting, 32 cm x 27 cm, 2016





## **Maija Toropainen**

b. 1956 in Kitee, Finland, lives and works in Helsinki, Finland

### **Studies**

2012 Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Arts Academy at Turku University of Applied Sciences  
1983 University of Industrial Arts, Helsinki  
1979 Free Art School

### **Solo exhibitions**

2016 Arabianranta Library, Helsinki  
2016 Galerie Pleiku, Berlin, Germany  
2015 Haalean punainen linnoitus (Pale Red Fortress), Jetty Barracs Gallery, Helsinki  
2014 Matka horisonttiin, P-galleria, Pori  
2014 Rautaoksida, Galleria Pirkko-Liisa Topelius, Helsinki  
2014 Kolme pistettä (maalauksia), The Library of the Labour Movement, Helsinki  
2013 Kolme pistettä ja muita kertomuksia, Stoa Gallery, Helsinki  
2013 Unohtuneet maisemat, Lasipalatsi Akkuna, Helsinki  
2012 töitä, Köysirata gallery, Turku  
2012 Näistä levyistä en luovu, Turku Concert Hall and Library of Turun konservatorio, Turku  
2011 Kallio Library, Helsinki  
2011 Maalauksia, Galleria Pirkko-Liisa Topelius, Helsinki  
2010 The Library of the Labour Movement, Helsinki  
2009, 2008 Galleria Punavuori, Helsinki  
2009 Studio Exhibition, Arla 80th anniversary., Helsinki  
2007 Galleria Silta, Helsinki  
2006 Akvarellikirjoja, Rikhardinkatu Library, Helsinki

### **Group exhibitions (selected)**

2016 Art and Coffee-exhibition, Vassouras and Valença, Brasil  
2016 Let it Grow, Summer exhibition of Helsinki Artist's Association, Helsinki  
2016 Pilvet (clouds), Helsinki Artist's Association 10 years Celebration, Helsinki  
2015 Crèche Path exhibition, Kallio, Helsinki  
2015 Virta -Helsinki Artist's Association, Annual exhibition, Kanneltalo gallery, Helsinki  
2015 Landscape – Union of Finnish Art Associations, Cultural Centre Poleeni, Pieksämäki  
2015 Hi, Tovi lasipalatsi, Helsinki  
2015 Vastakaiku – runosta kuva kuvasta runo -näyttely JHLopisto, Helsinki  
2015 Archipelago III, Galleria Nikolai, Kotka  
2014 Helise, taivas! Galleria Fogga, Helsinki  
2014 Crisis – Autumn exhibition of Helsinki Artists' Association, Jetty Barracs Gallery, Helsinki  
2014 Runokuva, group exhibition, Akkuna and Tovitila, Helsinki  
2014 Gallery Agija Suna, Riga, Latvia  
2013-2014 Portrait – Union of Finnish Art Associations, Lahti Art Museum, Lahti  
2013 Community art project NN nro 1, Helsinki  
2012 Somnium, Gardenia, Helsinki

2012 – 2013 Roskisgalleria, Vähätori, Turku  
2012 Aikoja, Köysirata gallery, Turku  
2009– 2015 Kallio kipinöi -Urban Festival, window exhibition , Helsinki  
2010 – 2016 Kallio kukkii -Urban Festival, window exhibition , Helsinki  
2011 Kätketyt puutarhat, Laterna Magica, Helsinki  
2010 Helsinki Design week Open Studios at Arla studios,  
2010 Helsinki Encounters, Helsinki City Museum, Helsinki  
2008-2010 Christmas Exhibition Galleria Punavuori, Helsinki  
1996 Frida Kahlo Festival, Helsinki  
1992 Freelance graphic designers exhibition, Ruotsinpyhtään ruukki  
1982 Printmakers Biennial for young artist in Vaasa  
1981 Graphic Exhibition with Pirjo Houtsonen, Lappeenranta  
1980 Lepakko, Helsinki

### **Public works**

2014 Työn maisema, Sörnäinen, Wallpainting, The Library of the Labour Movement, Helsinki  
2012 – 2013 Roskisgalleria, Vähätori, Turku

### **Community art project**

2015 Punainen lanka, Red Ribbon, in The Library of the Labour Movement, Helsinki  
2015 Naisten neuvontatoimisto nro 1, Lasipalatsi gallery, Helsinki  
2012– 2015 Naisten neuvontatoimisto nro 1. (The No. 1 Ladies' Advice Agency; in homage to a series of novels by Alexander McCall Smith The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency) community art project to- gether with Eeva Louhio. 10 events in different places.

### **Publications and video**

2016 The Party, exhibition publication; 2015 Haalean punainen linnoitus, Pale Red Fortress, exhibition publication; 2015 NN nro 1; 2013 unohtuneet maisemat, exhibition publication; 2012 Urhea kevät, video 5:44; 2012 NLEL., Näistä levyistä en luovu, exhibition publication; 2010 missä, an essay

### **Grants and working in Guest Studio Residences**

2015 The Artists' Association of Finland, Travel grant; 2015 FOT, Freelancegraafikot, Self-publishing grant; 2015 Grafikanpaja Talli, Helsinki; 2015 Finnish Artists' Studio Foundation, Grassina, Florence, Italy; 2014 City of Helsinki; 2013 City of Helsinki, City of Vantaa; 2012, 2014 Kökars Gästateljé, Åland; 2011 The Finnish Association of Magazine Editors, SAL ry; 2010 Kansan sivistysrahasto

### **Memberships**

Finnish Painters' Union, The Helsinki Artists' Association (HAA), Kuvasto ry, Freelance-graafikot , PAND-taiteilijat rauhan puolesta ry

*Special thanks to Jyrki, Teija,  
Keijo and Rosa*

© Maija Toropainen & NN nro 1, 2016

Paino: AM Digipaino /AM Print Oy  
Paperi: 140 g Edixion

ISBN 978-952-68436-2-9