



"Arekisandā Tovuborugu-no Shiteki de Shiteki na Seiboshi-zō." (Poetic and Private Madonna and Child by Alexander Tovborg.) *Geijutsu Shincho*, July 2022.

Graphic shapes and curved lines form flat representations of humans and flowers that completely fill the surface of the canvas.

The artist's deliberate and controlled use of colors combined with quivering lines and bleeding paint give the pieces a primitive and mystical feel. A solemn and sublime air seems to emanate from them.

These paintings were made by Danish artist Alexander Tovborg (born in 1983).

Tovborg has drawn inspiration from the longstanding tradition of representations of the Madonna and Child to portray his own wife and child in these works. In opposition to patriarchal traditions the child is not Christ, but 'Dea'; the female deity of bountiful harvests from Roman Mythology. (Which we also hear is the real name of Tovborg's daughter).

The use of bed linens as a surface for the paintings adds an intimate/personal touch to the pieces, as well as a sense of a hidden symbolism that can be unraveled through interpretation.

The abstraction of form and the universality of the subject matter is used as a steppingstone to weave in contemporary and personal interpretations into the work.

It is both a joy to interpret the symbolism present in the paintings and a pleasure to examine them visually. Layers of meaning float to the surface and retreat again, keeping the viewer drawn to the image.