

## ONE. 2015.

ONE - is an unifying factor that brings two or more themes together. The notion of one, inseparable wholeness of existence and unity of all elements has been running as the subterranean narrative throughout my artwork.

The paintings in this show are divided into two subjects - water and trees. Though they seem to be separate subjects, they are not. Water and trees are the aspects of the same living system, the environment and the object of this environment. I explore my relationship with these aspects and question the role and the place we occupy in this equation .....

The element of water has interested me for a long time and it was the title and the subject of my previous exhibition. It continues to fascinate me and having been living on the shores of a great lakes makes it so much more poignant and personal.

In this show I have explored water as surface and a medium that connects everything and everyone together. I am interested in the always changing but existentially same quality of water - its mirroring effects and its responsiveness to other elements. Reflecting everything above the surface and hiding all that is beneath, it separates the visible and the invisible with the thin line of the horizon.

I have re-introduced a human figure into my work. It is not the main subject of the painting but an integral participant of its environment. The image of a surfer can be read as a symbol of the one who is free and willing to experience the changing nature of his environment, balancing on the thin edge of curiosity and uncertainty. *"Integer"* - one of the titles in the show, refers to the singularity of the event and at the same time, to the wholeness of the experience.

Trees are a relatively new subject in my work. On my recent art trip to London, UK, I have visited many local parks and gardens, and was struck by the magnificent old trees that perhaps were hundreds of years old. They looked aged, as one would think about an aged person, weathered and saggy yet peacefully tranquil and undisturbed. With its masculine vertical trunk and feminine horizontal spread of branches it resembles a nervous/circulatory system of the human body. Standing in front of one of them I felt as if I was in the presence of a sentient being that was looking down at me in a silent, benign observation.

The quality and the intensity of this experience gave me the impetus to produce a body of work that would express my relationship with nature, with trees in particular. It is about being aware of the synergetic balance and cooperation of its parts. It speaks about a process of growth, maturity and aging. It is about a particular tree and about trees as a species. It is also about a beauty and balance inherent in all living things of which we are a part.

ONE refers to everything.

Anna Yuschuk

