

# I Promise to Listen

Niklas Holmgren | Jwan Yosef

April 21st – May 21st, [Studio Giardini, 798 Rio Terà S. Isepo](#), Venice, curator: Power Ekroth

The long-term dialogue between the two artists **Niklas Holmgren** and **Jwan Yosef** was first manifested in the exhibition (Stockholm, 2021) where the artists opened up about their unconditional and unfiltered love for their matriarchs. In their second exhibition together, *I Promise to Listen* (Venice, 2022) the artists instead approach the complexity of intimacy and affection between lovers.

Holmgren paintings capsule the intimate moments where time, the here and now, becomes endless. The brushstrokes capture the delicate properties of skin, flesh, and blood with ease. The light sipping through the ears, or illuminating the hands that rest in the book, echoes of what is outside of the canvas, the unspoken. The imagery together composes what seems to be a secret overture.



*Detail from one of the paintings in the series Orden, (The Words) 2022, by Niklas Holmgren*



*Detail from Untitled, 2022, by Jwan Yosef*

Yosef uses the brushstrokes in gray, misty shades, to layer the surface that creates a three-dimensional sculptural effect and a reductive style. The motif comes near the viewer and is not only blown up but also cropped very tightly, and the back of the heads seem to almost burst the canvas. The two persons' ears are so close to each other but are still separated, nearly severed as if they were at one point part of the same body. As if there is an imminent need to get closer and closer in a dance of seduction and desire.

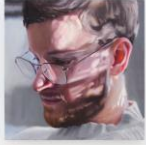
The works in *I Promise to Listen* oscillate the tensions created between the splendor of tender love and raw carnal desire; chiaroscuro and grisaille; depth and surface; communication and isolation. Combined they create a song of love, *un chant d'amour*.

For more information, please contact curator Power Ekroth at [mail@powerekroth.net](mailto:mail@powerekroth.net), +46707398888. For hi-res images: [www.powerekroth.net/press](http://www.powerekroth.net/press)

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Niklas Holmgren, *Orden I/The Words I (With Glasses)*, 2022  
Oil on canvas, 47 x 46 cm



Niklas Holmgren, *Orden II/The Words II (Tulip)*, 2022  
Oil and pencil on canvas, 57 x 47 cm



Niklas Holmgren, *Orden III/The Words III (Bird Cherry)*, 2022  
Oil and pencil on canvas, 81 x 56 cm



Niklas Holmgren, *Orden IV/The Words IV (Hands)*, 2022  
Oil on canvas, 46 x 43 cm



Niklas Holmgren, *Orden V/The Words V (Neck)*, 2022  
Oil on canvas, 68 x 47 cm



Niklas Holmgren, *Orden VI/The Words VI (Face with Shadow)*, 2022  
Oil on canvas, 47 x 40 cm



Jwan Yosef, *Untitled*, 2022  
Oil on canvas, 101 x 76 (x2) cm