8 WORKS BY

SOPHU8

Janbo.



11 to 18 May, 2023

Gallery 8 8 Duke Street London SW1

് is an exhibition of visceral and tactile paintings. It encompasses a seven-year body of work, that channels emotional states into figurations of flowers in charcoal, pigment and blood on hand-sewn antique canvases. These are extremly personal paintings which spring from a deeply reflective and transformational time in the artist's life. Following a near death experience, this body of work is a celebration of what ultimately matters in his life.

A motif that began as naïve and intuitive interpretations of naturalistic thistle-like vegetation, the flowers began to embody diverse, emotional and psychic states through trancelike repetition. These are "psychosis flowers" layered in malignant intricacy and smudged with pain, vascular blooms that seem to throb and pulse with psychotropic revelation; flowers of euphoria and exaltation; of communal revelry and dance. Text fragments appear throughout the paintings like half-remembered glimmers, snatched from the abyss.

Sophus has sewn into each canvas a magnetic element which allows the work to be hung effortlessly, offering spontaneity and participation. He prefers not to offer his work as precious, Sophus wants his audience to touch and get close to the work. The work is raw with no embellishments, hand-stitching and frayed edges openly demonstrate the processes, materials and technique.

Vernissage: Thursday 11th May, 5pm-10pm



JUICY EGO $100 \times 80 \text{ cm}$

2022 39×31 in

charcoal, pigment, blood on stained cotton canvas, coated in silicone



LASSO 43×54 cm

2021 17×21 in

charcoal on stained cotton canvas, coated in silicone



LUNGS $97 \times 45 \text{ cm}$ 2021 $38 \times 18 \text{ in}$

charcoal and pigment on stained cotton, coated in silicone



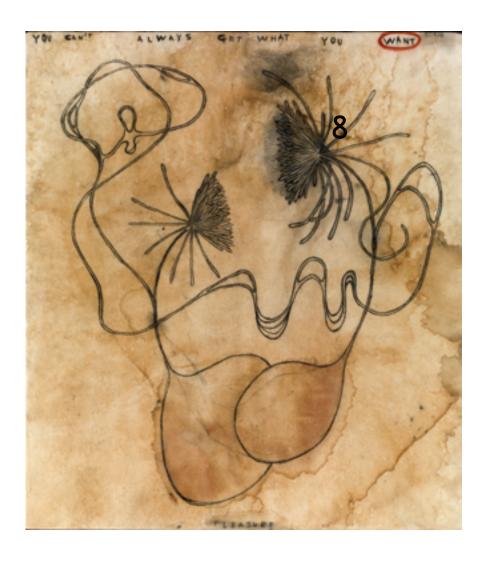
THE SUN $60\times69~\text{cm}$ 2022 $24\times27~\text{in}$

charcoal, pigment, blood on stained cotton canvas, coated in silicone



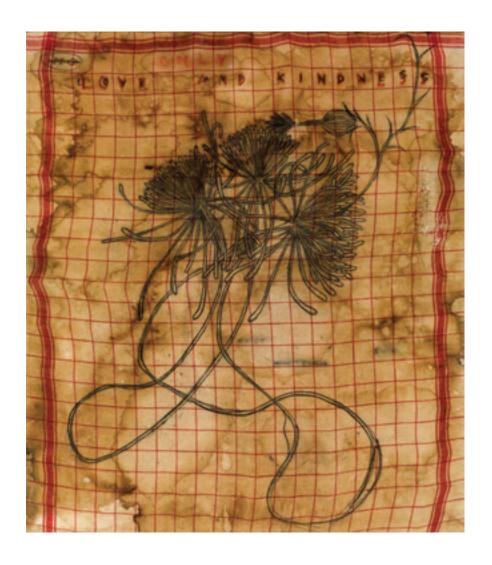
PEACE $60 \times 69 \text{ cm}$ 2022 $24 \times 27 \text{ in}$

charcoal, pigment, blood on linen, coated in silicone



AURA $60 \times 69 \text{ cm}$ 2022 $24 \times 27 \text{ in}$

2022
charcoal and pigment
on stained canvas



LOVE AND KINDNESS

60×69 cm

2022

24×27 in

charcoal on stained tablecloth unique



WAVES 200 × 200 cm 1/3 performance pieces 79 × 79 in

1/3 performance pieces from November 1st

2021

blood, gesso, charcoal



sophu8. November 1. performance. MaHalla, Berlin. 2022 photographed by Jose Cuevas

Sophus is a multidisciplinary artist working outside institutional structures whose works draws from a deep and turbulent well of inspiration, spanning across varying practices. He has been working independently for the better part of his life. After kissing the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, he created an arts space – Limbo. Limbo has since then been developing into a free-form platform, which is still fluctuating.

Sophus' work as an artist holds an ethos of radical vulnerability at its core. Chaotic and open, yet detailed and methodically worked. There is a freedom of spirit accompanied by a precise hand. Limbo is still evolving, welcoming in other artists and encouraging a creative exchange.

