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## Press Release



## Emma Sofia: Here's the Key

Private View: 18:00-21:00, 15 July 2021

Exhibition: 15 July – 27 August 2021

M/Gallery, A. Briāna iela 9, Rīga, LV-1001

[www.mgalleryriga.com](http://www.mgalleryriga.com) | [@mgallery\\_riga](https://www.instagram.com/mgallery_riga)

M/Gallery presents a solo exhibition dedicated to the Latvian contemporary textile and visual artist Emma Sofia. Emma creates work that questions issues in society, environment, and human behaviour in our fragmented post-digital world. Here's the Key, opening on 15 July, will present 11 large-scale works by the artist, which will aim to attract an audience by making them outthink the obstacles that trigger these issues.

Emma Sofia's artistic oeuvre across various mediums – from paintings, to tapestry, to tufted wall hangings – propelled Emma to gain international recognition and be dubbed as one of Latvia's most promising young artists, having won the public vote at the Baltic Young Artist Award in 2017.

In these strange times, we are becoming more aware of the hidden problems in our society – mental health issues, addictions to drugs, alcohol, abusive behaviour, self-critique, but also to self-denial. Through her work, Emma aims to re-introduce the idea that we already possess the tools needed for living a better life. While her hands are busy weaving, Emma expresses herself about these topics through art. Enveloping serious, sometimes difficult, issues and objects in fluffy, soft materials and light colours makes her work a unique blend of contrasts in both metaphorical and literal senses.

The exhibition title, Here's the Key, stands for the key to Emma's world, to the gallery, to yourself or someone's heart. Explore what goes on in the artist's imagination, find your own associations and meanings in every object and figure. Receiving a key is an act that symbolises trust and an offering. At M/Gallery, we also invite you to grab a literal key at the entry to the exhibition and enter our space with an open mind and a tool to unlock a secret box at the end of the exhibition.

Elen Salina, curator of M/Gallery, says, "When I got familiar with Emma Sofia and her work, I knew the power of vulnerability in her art was something I wanted to explore and highlight through the curation of the gallery. This resulted in creating an immersive environment symbolising a journey into Emma's world, where objects come out of the tufted wall hangings, colours flow out and spill onto the surfaces of the walls, and artworks find themselves flying in the air, hanging off the ceiling and onto the floor."

Emma Sofia was born in 1990 in Riga, Latvia, where she currently lives and works. Her work can be found in collections of Latvian LOTO, Upītes Cultural Space, and the Museum of Decorative Arts and Design.

### **About M/Gallery**

M/Gallery is a contemporary art gallery hosted on the first floor of the cultural centre M/Darbnīca. Situated in an iconic historical setting of one of the Fon Stricka Villa mansions, our doors will welcome you to the intriguing juxtaposition of the old and new, traditional and experimental, opening your minds to new discoveries.

With an exhibition programme rotating on a bi-monthly basis, M/Gallery will endeavour to introduce you to some of the most exciting art in Riga. From painting to analogue photography to sculpture, prints and posters, we will be presenting a range of mediums on offer, all within an affordable price range, to view in person and virtually. Familiarise yourself with our artists [here](#).

**For further information, please contact:**

**M/Gallery**

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