

Under – exposures  
Knock – knock

Thomas Hylander was born in 1970 in Denmark. He lives and was educated in London, England.

Your choices are never random. The concept 'Elective Affinities' by Goethe is also connected to Thomas Hylanders Anglo-Saxon choices, even though most young artists today are global in the sense that what is being produced in India is also being produced in Portugal or Alaska. But for Hylander, a Nordic tradition rooted in English art presides in his case; among others I am thinking of Paul Nash.

The images by Hylander are apparently stories about plants in a landscape or some kind of nature's 'nature morte'. He operates with several layers, not only in the technical execution but especially in the psychological statement. Hylander creates brain landscapes. Antonin Artaud the French poet used the expression 'a nerve weight'; these central landscapes and plants are being weighed on a fragile 'nerve weight'. The inherent light and subdued colours in the paintings, operate with a faint reflection, as seen in the work of Danish painter, Wilhelm Hammershoi. They are a group of nature's photographs that are underexposed and tinted with colour. The brushwork and the application of colour is dry – almost bone dry, and it is probably a very intentional attempt not to engage in the tactile and tangible substance of the colour, but more an attempt at using the colour and the material to shout or whisper through a statement.

In the row of young Danish talent, it occurs to me that Thomas Hylanders image making and quirky talent, will knock and knock persistantly on heavens door.

Peter Brandes