



■ MARI ASTRUP



■ Contact

Cell phone: +47 907 77 786 mari@ingress.no www.mari-astrup.no
Studio: Atelier Vøyenenga, Ringeriksvn 175, 1339 Vøyenenga, Norway

Artist's statement

My paintings depict situations and social gatherings with family and friends in a modernistic style. Through simplification, anonymisation and colours I wish to capture a mood and sense of togetherness that may inspire viewers to recognise themselves and to make up their own stories.

The conceptual source of these paintings is the famous work *Hip hip hurray* by Denmark's Peder Severin Kroyer (1851-1909), a member of the noted Skagen school. The paintings are about relationships, from my own photographs, gatherings where traditional Norwegian dishes are served, or just friends congregating in the pale Scandinavian summer night.



Mari Astrup in her studio. Press clipping from Tara Magazine.

Front cover left: Girls' Night, 120 x 100 cm, acrylics on canvas.

Front cover right: Riita on board, 120 x 100 cm, acrylics on canvas.



Blue Vase, 80 x 80 cm, acrylics on canvas.

Besides telling a story, my paintings express a conceptual form which I have named "friends and fellowship". I want to capture the mood and sense of togetherness created when friends assemble round a table to enjoy good food and drink. These gatherings may be annual events where traditional Norwegian dishes are served, a garden party or a boat trip, or just friends congregating in the pale Scandinavian summer night.

The host may fill a glass, someone may be laughing, an intimate tête-à-tête may be under way and even a little flirting. Most people can identify with the stories and individuals depicted in the paintings, which makes them not only my party of friends, but perhaps also yours.

■ Appreciation

Norwegian artist Mari Astrup's lush and dense paintings of friends in good company invite the spectator into an exploration of details. They inspire viewers to make up their own stories and to recognise themselves and others in the motifs depicted. The conceptual source of her paintings is a famous work in the history of art: *Hip hip hurray* by Denmark's Peder Severin Kroyer (1851-1909), a member of the noted Skagen school. The artistic process is elaborated from the traditional 19th-century style of painting to a modernistic adaptation of the same theme.

Astrup's concept of "friends and fellowship" is developed through simplification and anonymisation by digital manipulation of original photos depicting friends in social gatherings. The elaborated motifs are subsequently developed on canvas. They are often repeated in several variations, creating a sequence derived from the same conceptual background. In this way, Astrup develops a well-functioning concept through her blend of traditional sources and approaches with the use of contemporary aids, and the recognition generated in the spectator in its wake.

Jutta Nestegard, art historian



Crayfish Company, 100 x 120 cm, acrylics on canvas.



At Land's End, 120 x 160 cm, acrylics on canvas.



Within these walls, 120 x 160 cm, acrylics on canvas.



Purple Sofa, 80 x 80 cm, acrylics on canvas.

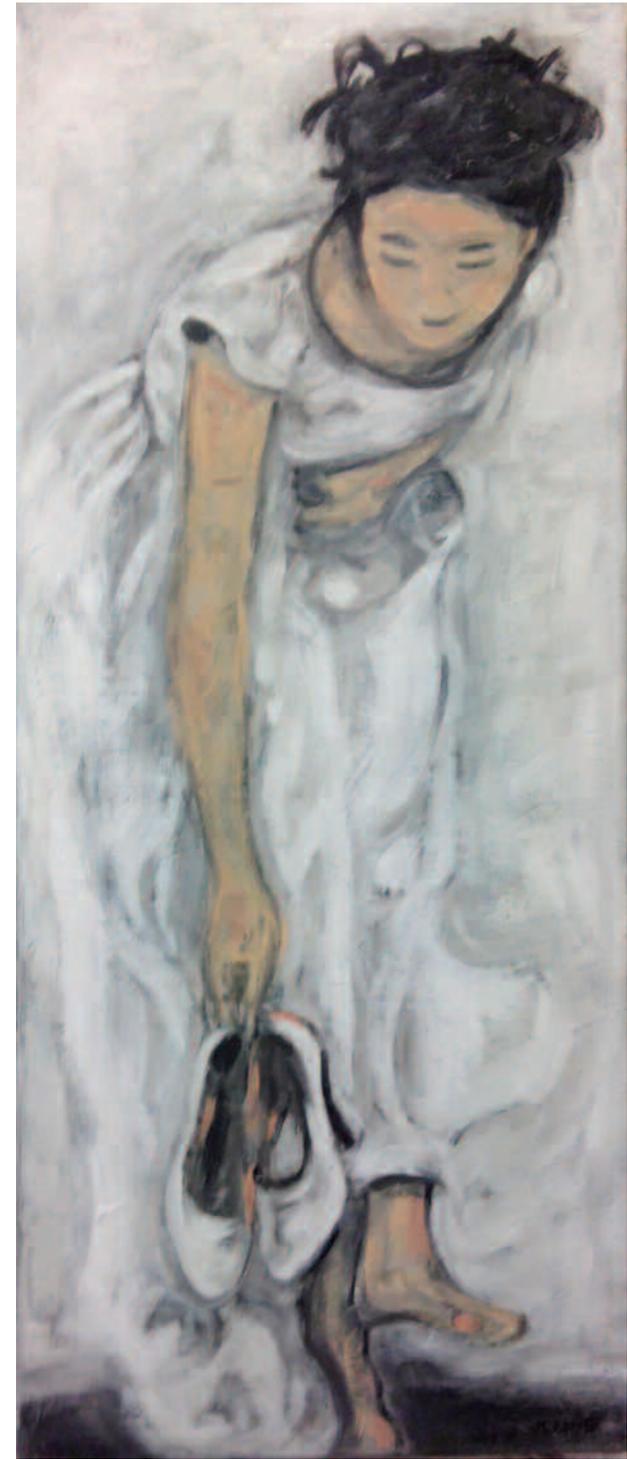


Ski Break, 120 x 80 cm, acrylics on canvas.



Left:
Blue Jeans
120 x 50 cm
acrylics
on canvas

Right:
White Shoes
120 x 50 cm
acrylics
on canvas





*Assignment for salmon fisher couple.
Each painting measures 110 x 70 cm, acrylics on canvas.*

■ Sculptures from recycled glass



*Something Red, glass sculpture, 22 x 22 cm height 30 cm.
Acrylics and silver.*

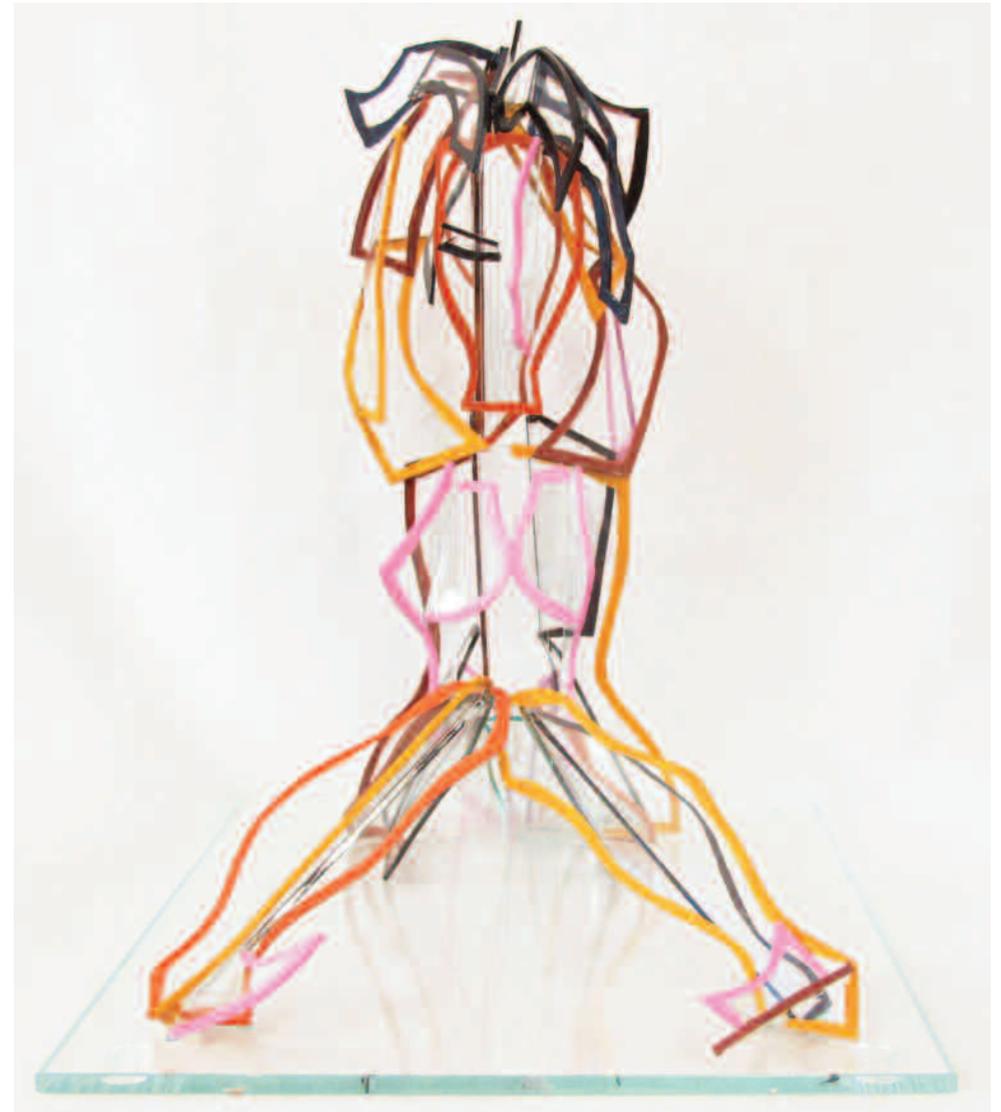
“ My sculptures are made of broken glass from picture frames given to me by friends. The glass is recycled by cutting the shapes one by one, and gluing them together in various angles by means of UV-light. The painted sculpture allows light and colours to shine through the transparent glass. In this way I create a new and three-dimensional cubistic form from a material that originally was two-dimensional, broken and discarded.



*Attitude, glass sculpture, 22 x 22 cm height 30 cm.
Acrylics and bronze*



Naughty Nude, glass sculpture, 22 x 22 cm height 40 cm, acrylics.



Bad Hair Day, glass sculpture, 22 x 22 cm height 30 cm, acrylics.