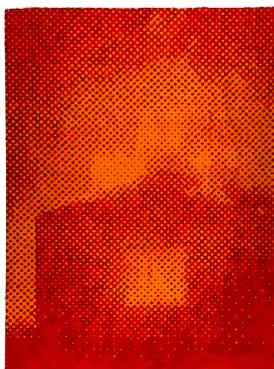


## FELIX BARDY: BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE 11.1.-30.1.2022



The existence of climate change has been known since the end of the 19th century, but it is still being talked about as a threat to the future. Heatwaves during summer months prove in concrete terms that this is not the case. In recent years, heat records have been broken around the world in summer, year after year at increasing temperatures.

The exhibition "Burning Down the House" reflects on man's relationship with the prevailing state of the world, as well as the thought patterns that have led to it. The exhibition presents two sides of the heatwaves - while in some parts of the world headlines about heatwave mean a nice holiday and lazing around, on the other side they have to be evacuated away. The works depict hell-like forest fires, as well as relaxed, joyful images of hot summer days and nights. In Finland, we warm up around a burning house and watch as it gradually disappears into the air in smoke.

The name Burning Down the House is taken from Talking Heads' song of the same name. The name draws attention to the large-scale impact of climate change as a problem. Although, for example, we in Finland still do not touch it as directly as it does on the other, the problem is shared by all people. Our home is burning to the ground. I am presenting climate change through the most concrete catastrophe, fire. For a long time, controlling fire has been one of the factors that distinguishes people from other animals, but the record-breaking forest fires of recent years have pushed all living creatures equally hard. Talking Heads vocalist David Byrne characterizes his lyrics this way: "The song's title was a metaphor for destroying something safe that captures, however. I imagined the words as an expression of freedom, a way of breaking away from whatever holds you in place." While my perspective on the title of "Burning Down the House" is different, Byrne's philosophy can also be applied to climate catastrophe. In the end, however, the crucial issues are the huge lifestyle changes and the renunciation of the benefits that have been achieved.

The works in the exhibition consist of oil paintings, a series of digitally modified photographs and two installations.

The paintings are so-called Slow Print paintings. They are almost abstract paintings of raster patterns. The raster pattern has usually been used in mass-produced images such as newspapers, T-shirts and comics. I paint the pictures in oil figures one point at a time, top to bottom, like a copier. The paintings follow in the footsteps of traditional painting and printing techniques, but they have been brought into the modern age. The oil paintings are practically designed with a computer before they have even been painted and the slow production of the raster pattern creates a contradiction in itself.

Burning Down the House brings out in a tangible way how deeply entrenched habits and structures that control our lives drive mankind toward its destruction.