# the MilDa dialogues

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## INDEX OF CONTENTS

- 1. biography Camilla Englundand Daniela Kopeinig
- 2. MilDa an explaination
- 3. MilDa #1 to #163 10
- 4. envelopes262
- 5. the very first MilDa 284

## **CAMILLA ENGLUND**

Camilla Englund is a Finnish artist working mainly through the mediums of drawing and painting. Thematically Englund often investigates what she calls "visions", detailed visual imagery that appears in thoughts and dreams and that she says carry a certain sense of otherness, of weight - of significance. The idea that one with a visual language can convey difficult or abstract concepts is something that continues to influence her work.

Englund is also intensely inspired by nature; the animals, the plants, the shapes, the colors. And how we human animals fit into the whole that is nature. She often paints and draws pictures of people morphing into other elements of nature or the other way around and investigates the symbiosis between us and other fauna and flora in this way.

Englund has worked actively as a Fine Artist since getting her BA in 2008 with exhibitions both abroad and in Finland. She has studied in Ljubljana (SL), Komárno (SK) and Rome (IT) and she lived and worked in Budapest (HU) for many years. In 2018 Englund founded the company "Planet Milla" through which she sells her art and does illustration commissions. She currently lives in the Helsinki metropolitan area.

https://planetmilla.fi https://camilda.tumblr.com

### DANIELA KOPEINIG

Daniela Kopeinig owns a little company for bags and accessories and is a passionate dog sitter. Besides sewing leather bags, printing fabric for lining and taking the dogs out for long walks she is realising drawing projects for her own joy. Having her own business makes it possible to combine all her interests and live a creative life. After studying fine art in Linz (Austria) and Ljubljana (Slovenia) she attended several classes at the summer school of Central St. Martins College in London (Great Britain). Being a big fan of comics and graphic novels she published some of her works in different magazines. Loving the beauty in small things that surrounds us is the main motive for her to produce art and design, always trying out new medias. Also current political issues, gender and everything concerning feminism you can find in her work. Though she likes to experiment, drawing and printing (silk screen, ecoprint) are her everyday and favourite used tools.

https://claraetpascale.at https://nightshade.tumblr.com https://camilda.tumblr.com

# the MilDa dialogues

We met during exchange studies at The Academy of Arts in Ljubljana 2006. Our friendship was born during walks and talks along the river Ljubli, morning tea sessions at our atlejé and extracurriculus activities studying philosophy and creating animations. After we each returned to our respective countries (Austria and Finland) we continued keeping in touch and soon begun an mail-cartoon like creation which we sent back and forth, adding frames, continuing the story. That project run its course, but we had enjoyed the format of a visual dialogue travelling the traditional postal routes – so in 2013 we started the project MilDa.

It all began in a shop for hair accessories and colorful jewelery. We went there very often to buy some new trashy things. This time we've found two hair pins, one with a blue fish, the other one with a purple fish - and there everything took its course. A friendship and an artist cooperation were born.

The name MilDa derives from a union of our respective names.

It was fun to create a name for our project and it already became to a fix part of our lives. It is magic when we open our postboxes and we see it: a new MilDa-envelope from the "other one". It is becoming a ritual to draw on the envelopes, it is funny when post officers don't want to stick on stamps on that drawings, it is like making and receiving gifts. (therefore we also added a best of our envelopes at the end of the book)

Each time we create three drawings onto which the one receiving continues drawing and writing, it is essentially an A4 dialogue by the means of drawing and writing. We talk about our emotions, thoughts, anything and everything that is of importance at the creation of the work. In a way it could also be described as a visual and collaborative form of diary. At each completion of a work we digitalise them and post them on our MilDa blog online. We do not re-do our works, and there has only been one

instance of a work being 'censured', and that was in consideration of a third party. The MilDa drawings have gotten positive feedback, people feel they are honest, open and easy to relate to. We ourseleves find extreme joy in such an uncensured creativity, there is no need for things to be 'perfect' and often the drawing very accurately express our current life situation.

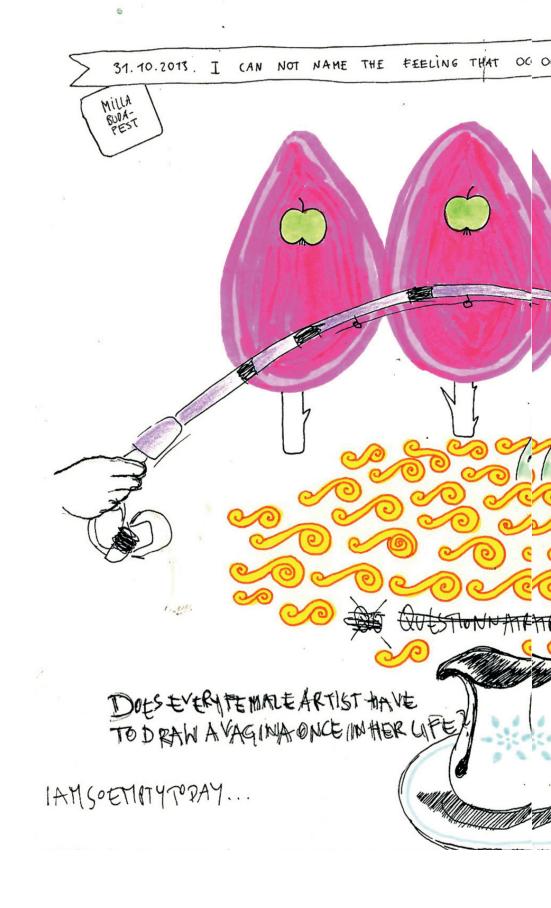
Our topics are not default, we draw and write about everything which concerns or interests us. Being a woman, being an artist, being in relationship with others, personal "problems", personal history, female topics in everyday life and politics...

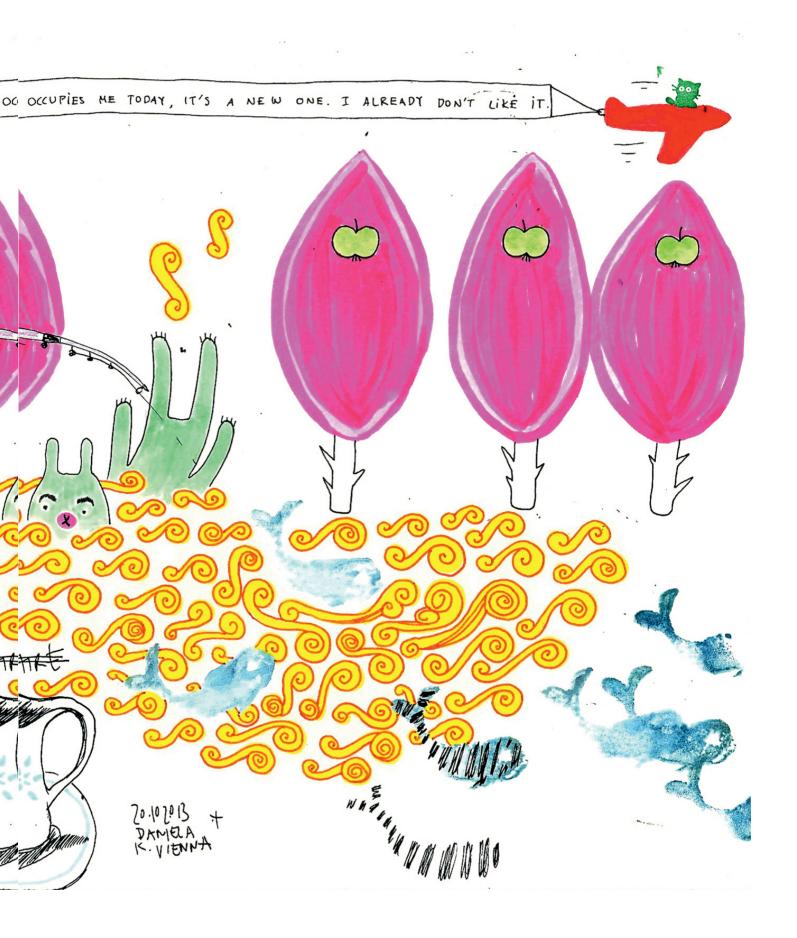
Our pictures are made with water color, ink, pencil, colored crayons, markers or whatever suits us in the moment of creation. There is no aesthetical limit what we use, it is allowed to overwrite, overdraw, "embrace" or just add something to the other part of the picture. Mainly we do also some text, but also this is not obligatory.

Through the MilDas we inspire and support each other as well as other people, that's why we have now decided to make them into a book. The online blog is easily accesibly, but it still lacks a certain intimacy to it. A book format seems the next logical step.

We both love books and there is nothing more beautiful, sensual and inspiring than opening a book and let yourself into another world. We wanted to share our MilDa communication, our thoughts and our questions within this book.

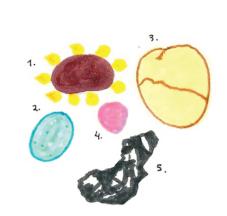
purple & blue fish Helsinki & Vienna August 2022











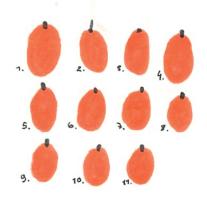
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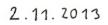
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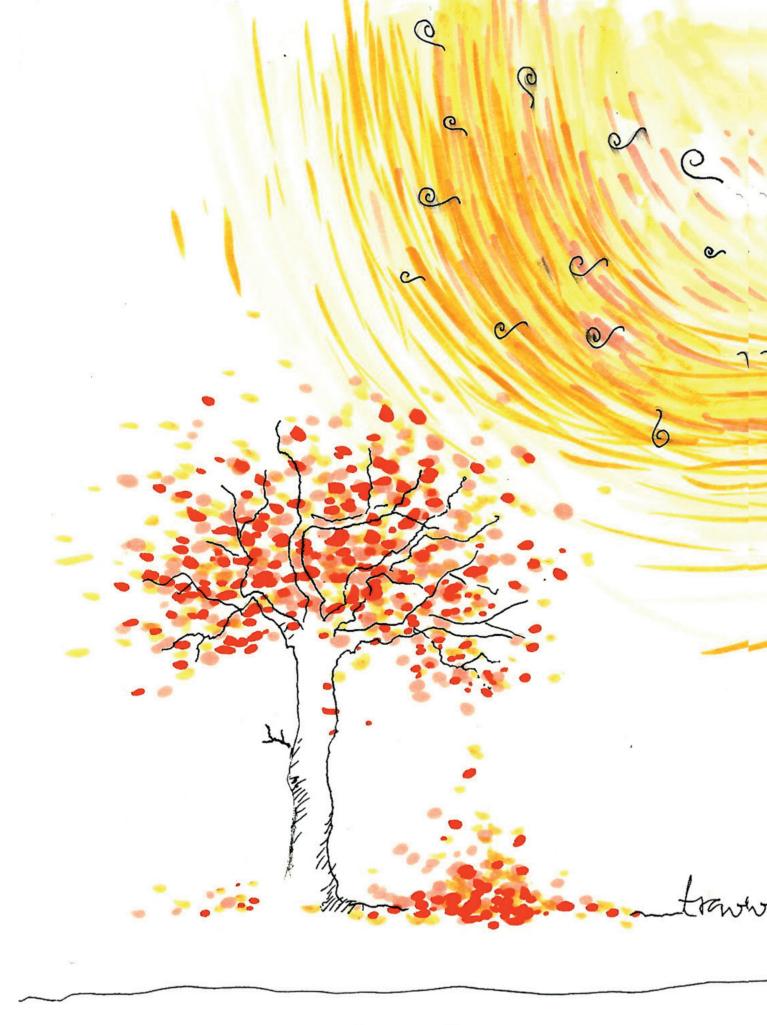
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VIENNA Daniela .. 27.11.2013





