

Toon Verhoef

17 January -21 February 2015

Opening Saturday 17 January 4 – 6 pm
Galerie Onrust | Planciusstraat 7 | 1013 md Amsterdam | nl
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Wednesday – Saturday, 1 – 6 pm
and by appointment

No title, 2014
acrylic and oil on zinc
40 x 30 cm



Painting Devoid of Subject Matter *

In the autumn of 2014 I made twenty paintings in which the same visual elements repeatedly appear. Disappear would be a better description because each painting is an attempt to dispel the image, melt, dissolve or disrupt it. Perhaps the teasing repetition creates something incidental and casual, something that resists simple interpretation.

A painting doesn't have to be about anything – not even about itself. It can generate from the artistic curiosity about the effect of colour and space. Each painting has distinct properties that become visible through comparison – they show much of the tangible world: movement, shifting, scraping, sweeping, jostling, in front, behind, under, above, light, dark. A fullness that the painting stores like a magnet and that is connected to sensory experience.

Painting carries a history within it: of the Khoi San hunters, the Anubis in Luxor, Meidias' Aphrodite, the secret of Piero, the spectres of Velazquez, the folds of Tiepolo, the quiet of Friedrich, the scars of Munch, the emptiness of De Chirico, the mist of Pollock, the rings of Mangold.

Painting is painting *
Art is made from art *

Paintings 1 to 6, 45 x 30 cm, No title, 2014

The first 6 paintings are made on aluminium plates that were used for monotypes. A ghost image remains on the plate after printing. A transparent acrylic skin with painting on the front and the back has been glued to the plate. These layers remain visible in the finished painting and dislocate the image causing wilful incongruence. The colour on the surface is mainly very thinly buffed oil paint.

Paintings 7 to 20, 40 x 30 cm, No title, 2014

The later paintings are made with the same procedure on zinc plates measuring 40 x 30 cm. I used the same imagery earlier in the year in very large paintings, 280 x 500cm. and 320 x 190cm. (shown at Kunsthau Baselland in Basel and now in Museum De Pont in Tilburg.)

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*Svetlana Alpers – *The Vexations of Art*

The exhibition in Museum De Pont opened 10 January and will last till 3 May 2015. On this occasion a catalogue was published by De Pont Museum and Kunsthau Baselland, with an interview by Ines Goldbach and a text by Ben Visser. This publication is also available at our Gallery. Price € 17,50.