

KARL PATRIC NÄSMAN – MÅNGATA / 木漏れ日

For this group show I have made a series of collage paintings consisting of different fabrics and painted or dyed canvas.

Some of the fabrics were collected during my last stay in Japan 2016/2017 for my artist-in-residency in Kofu. I searched through various second hand stores for fabrics or clothing that I found intriguing in both its materiality or pattern. I let my intuition guide me in selecting out these fabrics that later gave me inspiration for my artworks. I did not necessarily choose the ones I found most “typical” Japanese, although they should have some “painterly” or “abstract” quality to it.

Well back home in my studio in Stockholm I ripped, cut and prepared the fabrics with different glues and pigments to give them a more “painted” surface. Later the process of selecting out and combining the different fabrics begun to create new motifs for my paintings. By combining the fabrics with new canvas and old paintings I wanted to create new surfaces and contrasts. The process relied on quick, spontaneous decisions and I sew or glued the pieces together into bigger pieces. It almost became a reversed process of assembling the pieces into a painting than rather add paint on a canvas.

I was interested in the conception of what a painting can be, by breaking it up into its fundamentally parts of colors and texture on a flat surface with a frame.

The different fabrics acted as color fields and the textures and stripes resembles motifs of abstractions.

Simple in shape, my works have a conceptual yet material presence and attempt to deconstruct the concepts of authenticity and appropriation. These works may give up to a conceptual split between the appearance of traditional craft and contemporary painting. I aim to play around with the notions of craft and cultural heritage, high and low, real and fake. By merging subtle cultural historical references with a hybrid artistic practice I want to question traditional systems of value and cultural meanings as simple constructs.