

The taste of pastilettas !

A suspended acid apple green stroke turns fluorescent yellow, but is softened by a shade of dirty brown. Nearby a large brush stroke in a washed-out royal blue color, joined by a dense olive green, is spreading out, lightened by a thin layer of misty white. Despite the application in layers and not in juxtaposition each of the intermingled colors preserves its strength. The vertical gestures are forming, diluting, contrasting with, or vanishing into each other.

In the new series "pastiletta" Maibritt Ulvedal Bjelke launches her gesture outside the limits of the canvas, sometimes interrupting it two thirds on its way, suspending it at the centre of the painting or stretching it out to full height. Traces of running paint indicate that she works in several directions. You no longer know what is up or what is down - only the concentration set free from the brushstrokes. Just as liberated is her palette, neither warm nor cold. The colors develop on the canvas. *"The painting is right there, but slips away the moment you try to fix it. It's an open game."* The viewer seems to witness the process, the emergence of the various scales of colors and their overlapping.

In the series "colored", the white of the surface, the void that she expressly forgets, is resonating with the fluorescent white that constantly veils the bright colors. Thus the flaming red turns burgundy and black changes to grey. A materiality close to that of fresco appears. The colors emerging here and there - in the words of the artist, *"the vestiges"* - are true evidence of the very act of painting, the remains of the layers of strokes that she makes and unmakes.

This new set of paintings springs from a subtle interaction between the brushstrokes of "changing colors" and the tension created by the various pieces that Maibritt Ulvedal Bjelke has joined by two or by three. When confronted with the works an abundance of associations generate, not only challenging the faculties of perception but touching a vast range of emotions.

Jeanette Zwingenberger Art historian

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Translated from French by Lou Møllgaard and Maria Lund