

Catrine Bodum

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Artist statement

I would describe my work as intuitive. However, I work in various ways in order to build up a language that then comes automatic for when I paint. This takes place in drawings, photographs, listening to music, reading, and collages. The gist is to experiment and teach myself a mark making that allows me to express a sentiment. Currently, my work is very abstract. The current work deals specifically with residue and traces, layers and movement. A place where past actions affect new actions and traces of something happened is left to lead the eye up to what happened after. I find that there is movement in everything and therefore there are layers in everything. Visible or not, everything leaves its traces, accidental or not, and creates a skin or film of sorts on which something else will build. Recently I have felt my work come further into focus and stand more confidently on its own, and as my own, thus allowing me to focus on the act of painting rather than a topic or theme.

Over the past year, while doing my MA at Byam Shaw, I felt I was broken, literally from doing things out of habit and comfort. Snapped in half like a twig, where one half is I and the other half is my work. Then having to figure out myself how to reconnect the two halves. My entire past working process was put into question and thrown to the side, but not away. For good reasons, I was forced to focus on what ever I was doing right NOW. I had to start from scratch, build up new techniques and working methods as well as teach myself a whole new language of mark making. This took place through drawings I did while listening to Steve Reich and Philip Glass. I made improvisational drawings where the music or sound heard enforced my hand's movement, very much like improvisational dance. I stopped the mind from wanting to represent something, from wanting to make a composition and instead allowed it only to follow what it heard. This freed up my mind/hand coordination and allowed me to paint intuitively simply based on what feels right at the present moment.

'Catrine's art is a substance endeavoured from migration and travel to the USA and UK from originating from Switzerland and Denmark. Catrine found studying in New York to be a contort structure that helps build her essence as a painter. Under the influence of the city that consistently beats, Catrine's endeavoured work manifested a translucent and absorbent state of flux. Her found images that eventually tied up together and became the substance for paintings were founded here.

The Chaotic and teeming essence of the 'big city' drove her work forward and she wanted more influence and a place to further her study. London being the hive of multiculturalism and identity would become Catrine's new source to develop her painting style.

Catrine Bodum's work fuses the creditability of having drifted through different cultures and places with modern aesthetics.' (Lloyd Gill, Director of The Lloyd Gill Gallery, Weston-Super-Mare)