

OPENING: 15.12.2017. 19H
EXHIBITION: 16.12.2017 - 24.02.2018
GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY TO FRIDAY, FROM 11 TO 19 H.
SATURDAY FROM 11 TO 15 H.

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In an essay written by curator Dieter Roelstraete published in *Pieter Vermeersch* (Roma publications) on the occasion of his installation at Be-Part, Platform voor actuele kunst in Waregem (Belgium) in 2011, he writes about the concept of disappearance. Literally Roelstraete says: "...disappearing, precisely, is often what the viewer does, in front of Vermeersch's work – where "in front of" turns into "in", where two dimensions unfold to become three and three collapse back into two (and time into space and back into time in the process) – but it is also what the artist does, "in" his work, in his world".

Since his first exhibition at ProjecteSD back in 2005 Vermeersch's work has evolved consistently through a strong and unbreakable single mindedness of artistic vision. Color and light, time and space and the intersection of these intangible elements are the notions that have been explored by the Belgian artist since the very beginning of his career in the late nineties. An artistic research that continues, flowing and expanding with the experimentation on new materials. His mural works continue to grow and develop engulfing and subverting space. Either being conceived for exhibition spaces or adapted to already existing architectural sites, large gradation wall paintings and installations play an essential role in Vermeersch's practice. His well-known ephemeral palette and his smooth combination of colors in a given space is the result of the artist's reaction and perception of each space.

The mural works and his works on canvas, always coexisting in his practice and not being possible one without the other, are complemented with his most recent works on marble. Confronted with these geological layers accumulated on the stone, Vermeersch takes on a modest, subtle gesture, a simple touch of his brush on the stone that he sees as "an image". An image of time, as untraceable, as ungraspable as his "spacial gradient paintings". Vermeersch reads the kaleidoscopic quality of the marble, to reactivate it, leaving a mark, disarming in its transience, on a slice of time.

Pieter Vermeersch fifth exhibition at ProjecteSD is somehow a synthesis of his current practice. One more time he reacts to the spatial context of the gallery conceiving two large mural paintings that change and transform the perception and the dimension of the room. These continuous, weightless golden and silvery walls are flanked by three reddish large-scale canvases that almost behave as a third mural painting. Their tallness and verticality opposed to the wideness and almost landscape feeling of the two murals. In contrast with these works, an off-white brick wall is built in an angle in the center of the room. A daring, deliberate disruption that is used by Vermeersch to insert a dissonant note, an element of roughness, a twist in the space that emphasizes the asymmetry of his installation. A series of new marble works of different formats and qualities are inserted in the installation, in an attempt to transcend the "painting" sphere to enter, in some way, the territory of sculpture. Two dimensions evolving to become three and three melting back into two.

Vermeersch exhibition maybe should be perceived as one entity, a space for the viewer to walk through, to be immersed in Vermeersch's metamorphosis of painting, perfectly unfinished, almost disappearing.

Pieter Vermeersch (*Kortrijk, Belgium, 1973, lives and works in Torino, Italy)

A laureate of the HISK, Antwerp in 1999-2001, he was recipient of Jonge Belgische Schilderkunst (Young Belgian Painting Prize) in 2007. Pieter Vermeersch has produced exhibitions and site-specific installations at SMAK, Ghent; MUHKA, Antwerpen; Programa Art Center, Mexico City; ProjecteSD, Barcelona; Carl Freedman gallery, London; STUK, Leuven; BOZAR, Brussels; Be PART Platform for actuele kunst, Waregem, Belgium; London Newcastle Project Space, London, UK; Casino Luxembourg; White Box, New York, MuZEE in Ostend, Belgium, Galerie Perrotin, Paris, and Galerie Greta Meert in Brussels to mention a few. His work was featured in Expanded Painting Prague Biennial 2 (2005), the first Brussels Biennial 2008, in London at the South London Gallery (2009) and at Urdabaiarte (2012) in the Basque Country, Spain. Last year his work was presented at the Blueproject Foundation in Barcelona (2016).

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

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