

STÅLE VOLD

Measurement paintings

Opening: January 16th, 5-8 pm

Exhibition period ends: February 15th

Gallery opening hours: Wednesday-Friday 12-5.30 pm, Saturday 12-4 pm

For his second solo show at the gallery, Ståle Vold (NO, b. 1951), presents a series of paintings called *Measurements*. Given Vold's thorough, contemplative investigation over the past two decades, into the constituents of a Modernist heritage, a nod towards Mel Bochner's *Experience & its Paradoxes* does not seem far fetched.

The new series is best understood as witnesses of different states of mind, balancing on the crossroads of perception and conceptualisation. In themselves, they are nothing more than simple stripes of colour - very matter of fact in their direct application of paint in one gesture from A to B.

Vold's vital and fresh conception of the physical paint forms a visual syntax in motion. It echoes Frank Stella's ideas of "What you see is what you see". On one hand he embraces content driven issues true to a more rigid conceptual and minimal framework, while on the other, and unlike Stella, he certainly opens up to complex perceptive and even spiritual issues.

Well founded in an abstract heritage, Vold has set out to carve his own territory in what has happened in a European-American painterly tradition since the second world war. His occupation with structural elements has allowed him to form a very personal visual syntax in flux, most certainly due to an acceptance of visual imperfections along the way.

But Vold's project could not have been conceived without also a thorough understanding of a phenomenological critique that we, as humans, have separate substances, understood as body and mind. Vold is primarily interested in the physical necessities in painting but does not turn his back to issues of expression and sensitivity.

Johan Berggren Gallery
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