

# ARTIFACT

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PRESS RELEASE

## HELKA IMMONEN

### PAINTINGS

Reception: October 9, 2013, 7 – 9 PM  
Dates: October 9 – 27, 2013  
Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 12 - 6 PM



ARTIFACT is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of paintings by a Finnish artist Helka Immonen. An opening reception for the artist will be held on Wednesday October 9, from 7 to 9 PM.

Helka Immonen's 's delicate paintings are produced in a spirit of experimentation and sensitivity. They impel us to consider the color-field imagery that grounds her work in a tradition of Modernist painting. Immonen's inspired conception points to both a repudiation of the virtuosity of execution while it celebrates great declarativeness, as well as the clarity of a wholistic vision. If the artist's work has a sense of purpose it might lie in its capacity to remind us as viewers that the concept of this type of expressive abstraction is not the conceived in and of itself; it is instead what it is said of it a *posteriori*, after the work is finished. The intuitive aspect of the artist's artwork is paramount as its quality rests on that intuitive factor.

The quality of the work also rests on the thing conceived as it is being conceived. Therefore it is really a dangerous thing to believe and to trust that in defining the work with concepts (gravity, form, certain colors and striations, art-historical genealogy) we get to know the objects more intimately, more persuasively. The opposite of course is true: we distance ourselves from such work if we over-intellectualize it. It is as if we intellectualized the notion of time instead of becoming more and more aware of it simply by being in its flow and duration.

A summer breeze or tidal current causes the vegetation within it to undulate with pulsating rhythms. The ocean and wind ripple the sand. Whispered sounds vibrate the tympanic membrane, inducing a shift in the air transforming its movements into electrical waves. In looking at Immonen's sensitive works one could easily infer non-objective patterns which are representations of the tracks of subtle transferences of energy between gentle geologic forces and natural bodies.

What becomes abundantly clear in looking, as a whole, on Helka Immonen's artworks, is the artist's indispensable capacity to attain a certain emotional involvement. These include attempts at defining a sense of history, of memory and of the *self*. Resisting completely sentimentalizing components in her work for the benefit of enlarging the scope of her authenticating journey into creativity, Immonen's abstractions grapples with divided loyalties. The forces of positive ambiguity surge through her work; the result is visual traces of integrative wholeness that are nothing short of inspiring and nothing less than beautiful to behold.

For more information and visuals please contact the gallery.