

PRESSBOOK

Pieter VERMEERSCH

A.M. Post

September 2015



HONG KONG

04 Pieter Vermeersch

3. July – 15. August, 2015
Galerie Perrotin

In the solo exhibition of Flemish artist Pieter Vermeersch, the artist showed a series of paintings that he regarded as pictures of the 'degré zéro' (degree zero). 'Degré Zéro' is that photos are reduced to subtle gradient changes of a few colours. Some of the paintings were finished off with the scraping off of paint from the canvas and supported by subtle gradient colour of the walls on which the paintings were hung. The paintings of Pieter Vermeersch are a multi-dimensional analytical process.

An analysis is that the composition of something is reduced to a more raw form and parts are singled out rather than seeing the whole. It has been long-standing in Vermeersch's practice that he attempts to magnify the impact of colours on viewers by rendering photos to limited ranges of colours. In scraping off paint from the canvas, Vermeersch brings out the reduction of the act of painting. And by introducing the gradient colours on walls, it is made explicit that walls are painted and vaguely that all paintings are also a form of installation. (Vermeersch did title the painting of the walls as a work of art.)

Although it is easy to relate the Vermeersch's works to Minimalism or Post-Painterly Abstraction, the analytical process of the painting are doing more than addressing the mere being of paintings. On the contrary, a viewer reviews his understanding of painting every time the paintings are seen. Vermeersch's works let viewers focus on just the colours of figurative images, the intervention of a tool out of an entire painting process and the walls as paintings instead of objects as they are.

Despite the reductive process, Vermeersch's works add understanding to the subject matters and to art that their nature can be seen alternatively through his work at the zeroth degree which is a primitive level of perception.

Written by Bernard Yeung

04
Pieter Vermeersch
Untitled
2015, oil on canvas