Neograttage

Artist statement | MatWay / Matvey Slavin

I develop images by removing paint. In Neograttage, I draw and incise into wet acrylic on canvas. A mark reveals the layers beneath it while changing the surface itself. Painting becomes both image and relief: something to read from a distance and something to encounter closely.

The process makes decision visible. Each incision changes the conditions for the next; an action cannot simply be taken back. I am interested in the relationship between intention and resistance, and in how an image carries the time of its making. Light and the viewer's position bring different parts of that history into view.

Chess, the artist as a figure, relationships between generations and encounters between cultures recur in my work. These subjects offer situations in which one action changes another person's possibilities. The painting does not illustrate a fixed answer; its figures and surfaces hold decisions, tensions and competing ways of looking.

I work across monochromatic and polychromatic painting, from intimate canvases to large formats. Scale changes the viewer's physical relationship with the incision: a surface can be surveyed as a scene, approached as a drawing, or experienced through the movement of light across its relief.

Born 1987, St. Petersburg. Based in Copenhagen.
Represented by Galerie Provence, Denmark.