

## The Search for the Perfect Picture

“ultrapath”: The Canadian artist and trained scientist Beth Letain runs color research at Peres Projects.

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Works by Beth Letain in the gallery Peres Projects.

Photo: Matthias Kolb/Peres Projects, Berlin.

The title of the exhibition “ultrapath” lives up to its promises. The Canadian newcomer Beth Letain shows brilliantly “optimized” versions in eleven new works in the gallery Peres Projects. The artist, born in 1976, was trained as a scientist; It is no coincidence that the term “ultrapath” refers to a technical process designed to improve energy efficiency, transferability and resource use.

Letain is also a passionate researcher in painting. Only ten years ago she graduated in painting in New York. Since then, she has concentrated on exploring her profession, focusing on simplest forms and constructivist reduction, on rectangles, squares, lines.

In the work “Blushing Invaders” she layers color stripes one above the other, in “Dayfall” she paints the entire canvas (all works between 2500 and 35,000 dollars). Letain lays out test series which are repeated, optimized and refined until she selects the “best” result and transfers it to the canvas, with oil paint, layer by layer. Finally, she rubs off the paint partially, so that a velvety surface is created.

The rich, bright colors, the purple, pink, red and blue of the squares, piles and panels seem incredibly weightless, in palpable contrast to the expressive gesture of the broad brushstroke. Although geometric in shape, her work has haptic, physical qualities. Their search for the perfect composition pays off, and we want most of all to move between the volumes and grids in the spaces that Beth Letain’s art opens for consideration.