

Cecilia Danell

B.A (Hons) in Fine arts (2008)

Statement:

**This is utopia. The sky is always blue. Slight detachment.
A feeling of not belonging.**

I am interested in the modernist architects' visions of utopia, and how the disappointment that the ideal can never be met leads to a kind of detachment from the place we're in now. How we go about our everyday lives but secretly long to be elsewhere.

My latest work revolves around a couple of Stockholm suburbs. I explore the notion of otherness, of observing but not quite belonging. Of living in a suburb but maybe feeling detached from the rest of society, a feeling that may be shared by foreigners and natives alike. Of seeing where we are right now as a temporary arrangement on a journey that should take us elsewhere, forgetting that life is what happens here and now, and that our grand plans may never materialise anyway.

Through the use of heightened colours and smooth surfaces I want to show that what I'm depicting isn't quite real, it's only an ideal played out, a place where the sky is always blue. My work also serves as an indirect comment on building booms and over ambitious visions of any given age.

My practice is grounded in the traditions of painting, but I also use photography and animation. I collect retro items from various sources and these influence my work a great deal through their colours and textures. This collecting and appropriating is a big part of my practice, and sometimes makes me dabble in the areas of kitsch, while still retaining the fine art qualities. The process is as important to me as the finished piece because without the parts there would be no whole.

I want my work to be bright and playful but also raise more serious issues for those who are willing to see beyond the exterior. I leave it up to the viewer to decide how they want to read the work, but the clues are all out there.