

Statement of intent

Cecilia Danell, paint year 3

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a space, a home
a house, a time
a utopian dwelling of the mind
futuristic retro style

I am very interested in architecture in general, and looking at apartment blocks built in the 50's-70's in particular. I am from Sweden and over the Christmas period I was doing research on apartment blocks in my hometown of Motala. A group of buildings in an area called Ekön caught my attention, they were built in 1957 and I really like their shape and colour. I also enjoy collecting retro style fabrics and items, things that could potentially have been found in one of these apartments in the 60's-70's. Colour theory and the way colours work together is very important to me. I also have a big interest in photography, especially working with slow shutter speeds at night in order to obtain different light effects.



After building a scale model of one of the apartment blocks in question, I made a short video piece featuring the model as well as some of the items I have collected. It isn't meant as a standalone piece, but rather as a way of processing my material in order to come up with new ideas for paintings. I am using stills from the video as well as photos of the model as source material for my paintings rather than basing them on photos of the original buildings. It allows me to play with perspectives by looking at the building from angles I could never have achieved by photographing the real thing. I am working on a medium format photo project parallel to this and it is mainly centered around the university campus, as I like the architecture. I want to convey a feeling of being the outsider looking in, standing on the verge between the safety of the lit up area and the unsafe darkness behind you.

I like mixing different techniques in my work, such as drawing, acrylics, heavy impasto, thin washes and acrylic gel medium photocopy transfers etc. As photography feels like such an important part of my practice I like to incorporate photos into my work through this transfer technique. I am planning on creating a couple of large paintings incorporating

different elements of my gathered research material, and giving them a somewhat dreamy quality by mixing techniques and trying to deconstruct the different elements of the images and objects I've gathered. I am interested in the whole notion of a modern apartment, the way we construct a life within four walls, how it is more of a home space than a home place, the utopian idea of a home of your own. I am detaching myself more and more from the original material until my images are no longer dependent on the source material but become a world of their own.

The artists I'm influenced by would be **Laura Owens** for her painting techniques, **Michael Raedecker** for his play with light and dark, **Peter Doig** for his colours and architecture, **Paul Seawright** for his forest photos, **Matthias Weischer** for his colourful architectural spaces and composition, **Stephen Loughman** for the eerie feeling in images of being the watcher, **Philip Braham** for his long exposures, **Thomas Demand** for his composition and various Scandinavian designers for their colour sensibility and minimalism.

