

Marie Kõljalg  
born 1984

Education:  
2012 BA Painting, University of Tartu, Estonia

Artwork submitted for the Young Painter Prize 2012:  
*Escaping Criticism* 150x120 cm, acrylic on canvas, 2012

My work explores the essence of the painting itself. On the one hand I work with paint in a completely arbitrary way, letting the paint smear on the canvas with unpredictable outcomes. This creates an abstract two-dimensional surface which conveys the pure materiality and sensuality of the paint itself.

But on the other hand I use representational techniques to add illusion of depth and distance to the two-dimensional surface of canvas, taking an abstraction into the third dimension. Nevertheless, the created spatial illusion is illogical, it takes cue from enigmatic use of perspective in orthodox icons and therefore evokes a sense of a sacral, otherworldly space. Furthermore the spatial illusion enables the human eye to personify the paint daubs.

Consequently my work delves into the relationship of opposite pairs – the arbitrary and deliberate mode of painting, the abstract and representational visual language, the material and spiritual qualities of paint. Exploration like this helps to unveil the notion and role of painting at the present time.

