

INCONNU(E)(S) PROJECT 2018 - RESIDENCY WITH COLLECTIF CURRY VAVART

LISA OUAKIL

This painting is part of a research project called *Inconnu(e)(s)*, started during a residency with Collectif Curry Vavart in Paris in 2018. The project explores the relations between painting and writing, in connection with space and territories, particularly the ones surrounding the residency studio.

Discovering a new landscape by walking through it, and bring back wrote portraits, texts about the environment, giving life to urban objects. It was for the artist, a way to question space representation in an abstract painting but also portraiture outside of figuration. During the residency, she used the studio as a place where she could experiment around the idea of performance and lecture in front of the paintings.

This triptych was showed during the ending exhibition of the residency, *Manifestez votre présence aux fenêtres*, at Villa Belleville, september 2018. A performance-lecture was organized for the opening, where the artist read a text. Here's an excerpt* :

«...It's thousands of figures, faces, and moving bodies that are suddenly in front of me, scaring me by their number. It's a lot of flesh that is dancing under this sandstone pyramid. A big crowd. I go to sit on a little low wall in order to be part of the landscape. But I'm like a stain inside it. Like a blueberry stain on a white cloth. The sound is reaching me, bit by bit, the wind preventing it to be fully heard. Words, letters comes to me but I don't understand, I don't speak this language. I end up pinching myself to get out of what seems to be a dream but it doesn't works. I'm stuck on this little low wall, until I realize I am made of clay and I am full of tea. A woman takes me to her lips, at this moment, and again this brown curl is touching me, like an enchanting arabesque...»

*translated from french by Lisa Ouakil