

## The contact - moments on no-man's-land

New paintings. Wandering from late winter through spring and summer, ending up here.

As I started my journey I had a memory, which now I could call a map. It's folded to the size of a small envelope, fragile when opened, red carbon paper full of small crosses. This paper, which I once found and which has intrigued me ever since, is my mother's old embroidery pattern, a script for stitches. It has been an instrument of chores, and doesn't really have anything to do with the world of art, but the tradition of craft and decoration. Being that, by accident, it is also a beautiful minimalistic drawing.

**Leena Kangas    Tuntuma    7.9. - 25.9.2016**



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A theme of crosses and lattices inspired by this map or pattern recurs in many pieces of my collection, and decorativeness meets plain lines also in my fringe paintings. Otherwise the scenery is changing. The red and blue dream scenery in the beginning of the journey turns into light terrain, whose paths are embroidered by fallen petals. A petal is a drop, a tear, and two petals often settle as a pair of eyes, a new gaze.

As a summary, this exhibition is about the beginning and the end, and something in between. About life, that is. The small studies of colours are also called No-man's-land. Through the history the colours have been, and still are, symbols of many things: countries, ideas... From the painting point of view they are however also entirely free from any meanings loaded into them, and a painter can use them in various combinations happily, enjoying. The colours belong to freedom! I like especially the bright spectra of rainbow scale.

The contact is to be in touch and near, or it is an action of blending knowledge and experience with intuitive and subconscious. It's a good word to describe the act of painting.

As I'm writing this I can't be sure, which paintings will finally end up as parts of the hanging and the space of the exhibition. Therefore all rights to make changes are reserved: may this text be also an independent description of the course of the events. And when you look at the paintings, knowing anything about the text above isn't necessary. However it may help you find some kind of route, and open my methods of working to others, as well.

The exhibition is also a cross on a map, the spot X – a meeting point for art and people. Welcome!

Oulu, August 2016,  
Leena Kangas