



ROBBERT FORTGENS

PROJECT 2.0 / GALLERY

Under The Skin

My diary has never been this empty before. A rare luxury! The lockdown has been a blessing for me: no traveling to Germany, France, Spain, Antwerp or Amsterdam. Just me on my own in my studio. Focus!

These are difficult times for many. I certainly do not underestimate the grief, fear and loss and share in those feelings too. I also miss the warm embrace of my loved ones.

Painting perpetually without any distractions – I feel very privileged. I have spent the last period painting day and night. Extremely driven, extremely relaxed, but physically demanding too. I have experienced the positive side of lockdown and enjoyed it immensely. It has sparked a period of evolution in my work, a step towards major change.

I have immersed myself in the paint, the layers, the energy. The work emerges and flows. Each colour makes way for the next one, layer upon layer, life upon life. Colour is present but does not dominate; as layers of the earth, soul and mind. I'm quite happy to carry on like this for now.

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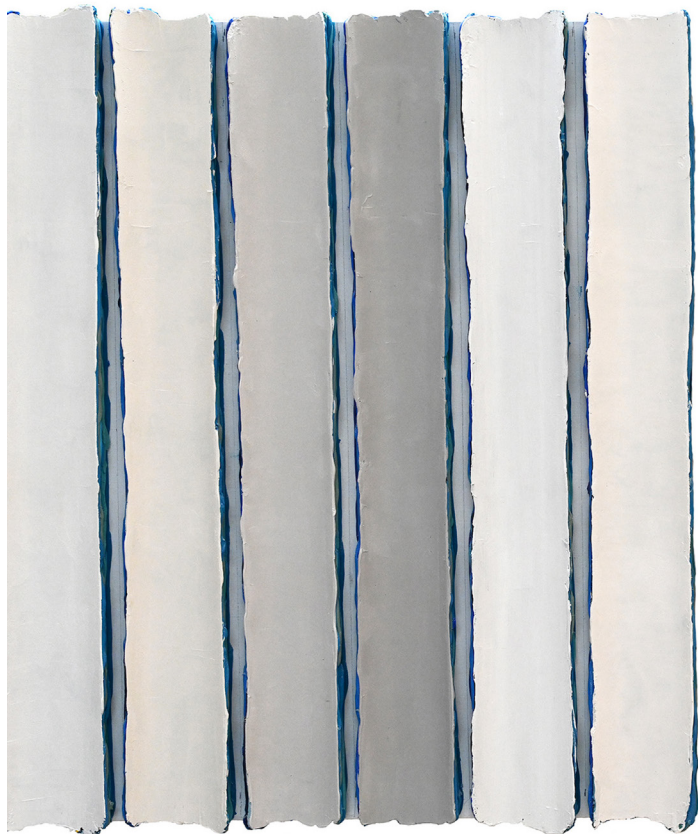
Under the skin- yellow fields, 170 x 135 cm



Under the skin- different layers 3, 65 x 55 cm



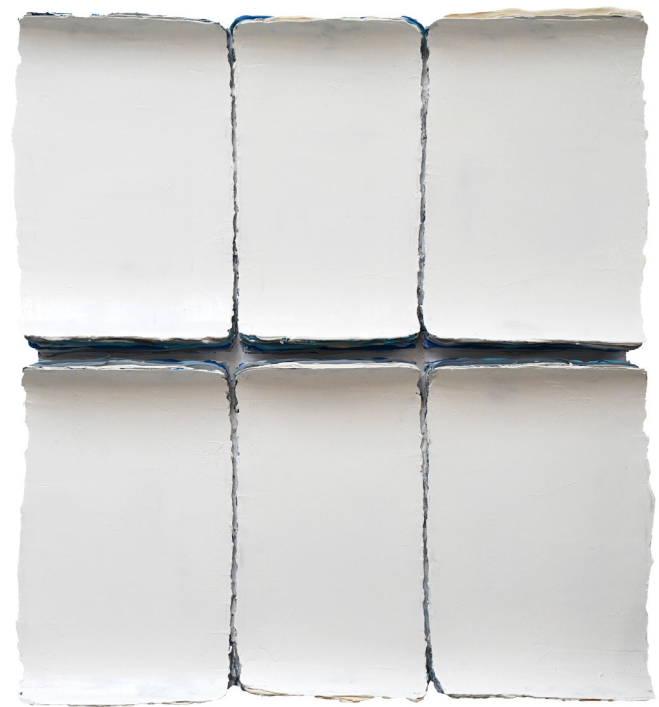
Under the skin- stripes 2, 124 x 102 cm



Under the skin- stripes 1, 124 x 102 cm



Under the skin- morning view, 65 x 55 cm



Under the skin- just white, 124 x 124 cm

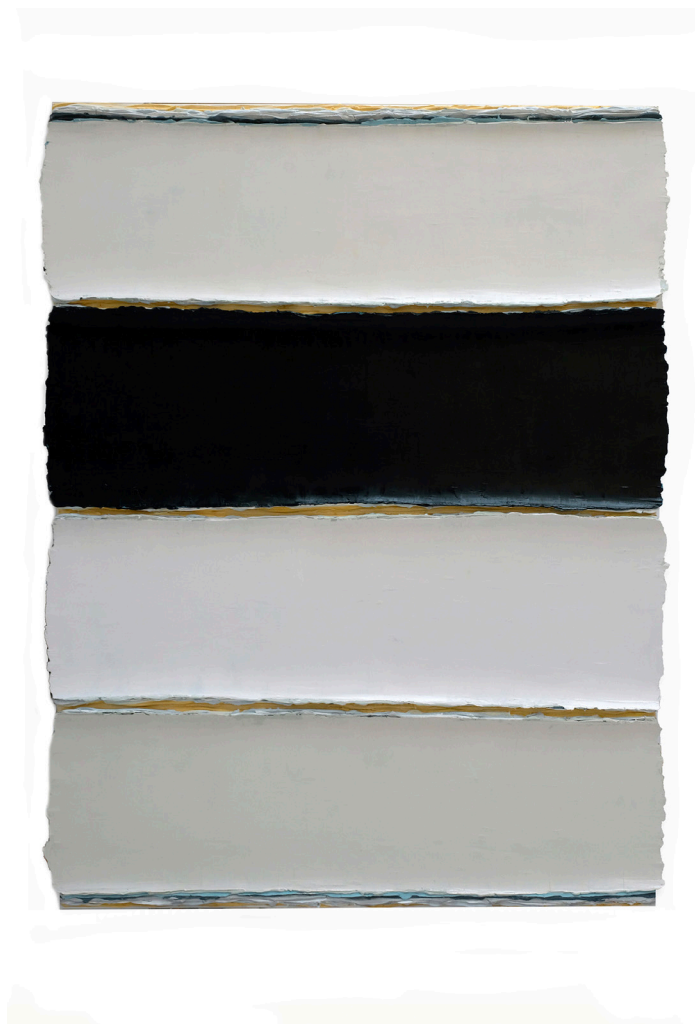




Under the skin- yellow field 1, 65 x 55 cm



Under the skin-two sides, 170 x 135 cm



Under the skin- black and white stripes, 200 x 150 cm



Under the skin- in red 2, 134 x 130 cm



Under the skin- sky, 124 x 124 cm



Under the skin-green valley, 170 x 135 cm





About Robbert Fortgens

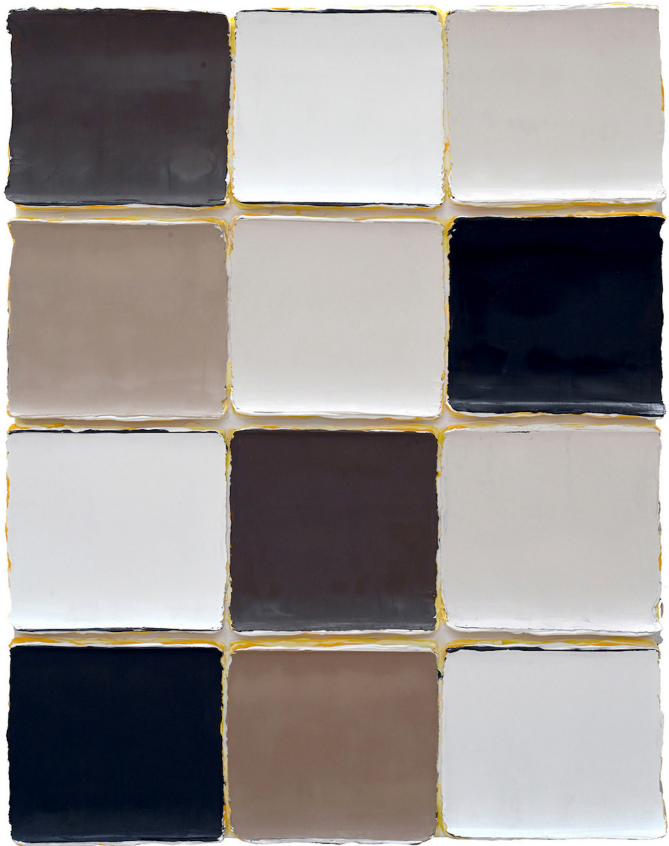
The artworks of Robbert Fortgens have certain characteristics that are confusing at first sight. His works are abstract and possesses certain characteristics that make the art inherently Fortgens. Although his imagery is of an abstract nature, they seem to maintain an archaic force. They exhibit signs of conflict and struggle, while they try to bear the peace and balance of the monumental within itself.

Fortgens through his works shows the audience his own battles. Each piece represents a stage of his creative progression. Together they present the viewer with a story that is called 'How do I become who I want to be'. Fortgens used to paint still life's with beautiful realistic pears and graceful female figures. However, he did notice how much the conventions of a profession, that also involves painting, can become a prison and how creating artistic content and meaning can get in the way of a distinct vision. Everybody comes along crossroads in their lives and, like the demigod Herakles, makes a moral choice that determines the rest of his life.

Fortgens returned to the artistic inspirations of his youth, he starts to paint, and basically shows what inspires him. One might think that this would make his work more accessible only for the people who know him, but the individual becomes universal. The reason his work appeals to more and more people, proves that something is expressed in his artwork that connects us with the artist himself. His issues become our issues and that makes it universal. This is a strange paradox, because as Fortgens reveals more about himself within his artwork, he releases the pressure of his 'personality' and 'achievements'. Progress in his work now means 'letting go'.

Project 2.0 / Gallery
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Photo on the back of the cover: *Under the skin- noche 2*, 170 x 135 cm



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