Suspension

A monographic exhibition in Paris of works by the Belgium-based American artist Jeff Kowatch (b. 1966, California; lives and works in Brussels) who, without really switching registers, has chosen a new source of inspiration.

These new paintings draw on music and colors from the circus for their ambiance, with softened hues and rounded shapes which, with their slightly blurry quality, seem to hover in a simultaneously sonic and visual space. The viewer is carried away by the gentle musicality of very finely nuanced shades, by the graceful dance of subdued luminosity that carries us into a dreamlike, poetic world. We are entirely gripped, as if enthralled by the delicious offering, imbued with tenderness and a hint of nostalgia.

Thanks to his refined technique, these compositions, invariably flexible and lively, as vibrant as a colored mist, end up losing their real dimensions and instead radiate with depth, beyond the natural limits of the painting.

The painter's approach is like that of a magician, lulling us with illusions in an atmosphere of wonder and enchantment.

Truly, we want nothing more than to be swept away to this plush, voluptuous cocoon, with its unusual, subtly measured and finely-wrought chromatic accents. These paintings are indeed delicious, because they exude a flavour you can almost taste. The exhibition is also a chance to discover his oil and soft pastels on paper, as well as the early oil stick paintings on wood. And thus, without losing any of his abstraction or fundamental bases, Kowatch's pictorial universe has changed. The masses coalesce differently, gestures come to the forefront, energetic strokes emerge clearly, and the overlays reveal new levels of transparency. Here we meet with the forceful imprint of life itself, communicated through different but equally persuasive resonances.