

Gallery Guide
Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

September 5, 2014–
January 3, 2015



Carla Klein

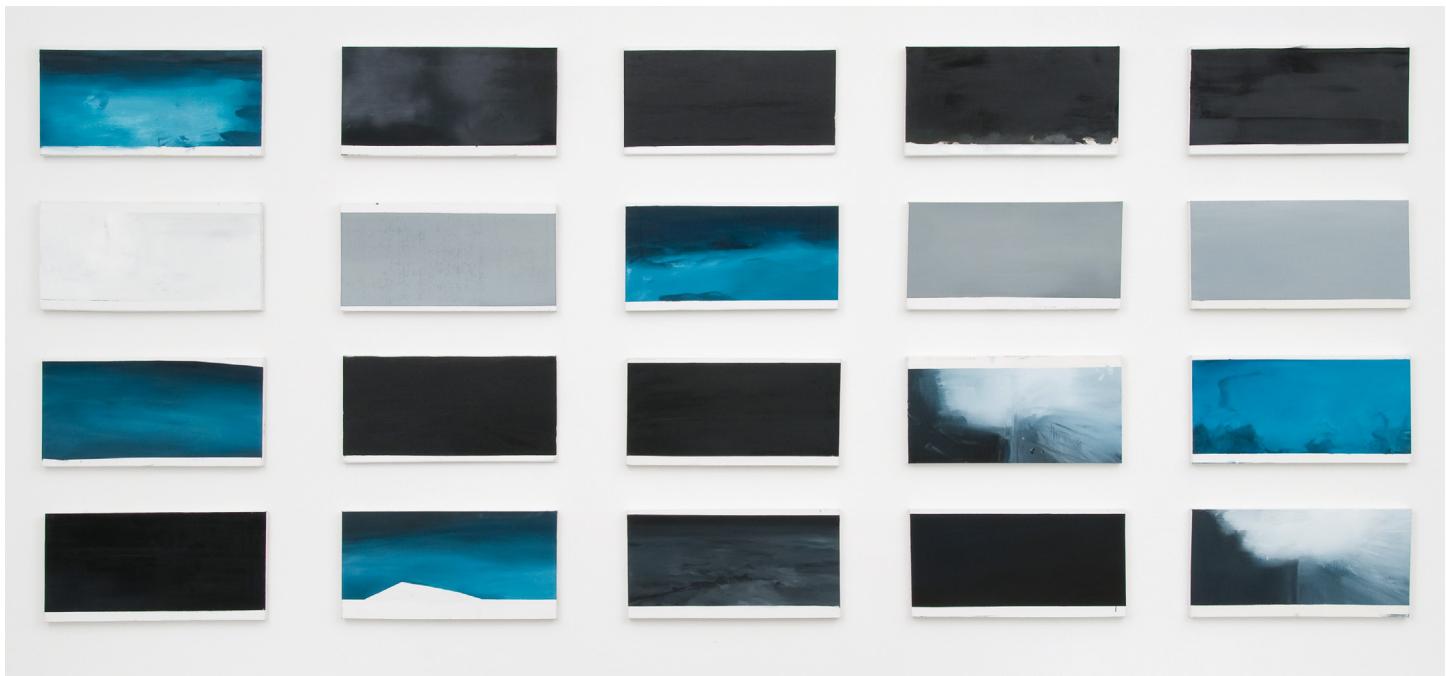


Untitled, 2013–14. Oil on canvas, 59 × 177 inches.
Courtesy the artist and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery.

Acclaimed Dutch artist Carla Klein renders scenes of familiar locations, such as airport runways and open roads beneath cloud-filled skies, as desolate landscapes devoid of human presence. Over the past two decades, Klein's large-scale paintings have depicted the “non-place”—sites built solely to be passed through—as vacant spaces stripped of their transitory function. Through her signature aqueous palette, Klein's paintings traffic in the sublime—dreamlike views into a desolate, postmodern reality.

Painting primarily from her own photographs, Klein explores the physical properties of film, embracing the material imperfections of the analog technique. Through her translation of photographic images into paintings, Klein smudges fields of translucent color to replicate the scratches and splotches that naturally occur when photographic negatives are developed. The resulting pictorial effect distances the viewer from the picture plane as if separated by a smeared pane of glass.

In her most recent series, *A reconstruction of a random timeline 3*, Klein's grid of twenty paintings furthers the ways in which landscapes can be visually recorded and perceived, evoking, yet ultimately eschewing, a chronological conception of time.



A reconstruction of a random timeline 3, 2009.
Oil on canvas in 20 parts, 62 × 149 ½ inches overall.
Courtesy the artist and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York.

Carla Klein (b.1970, Zwolle, Netherlands) has had solo exhibitions at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive in California (2005) and Jarla Partilager in Stockholm (2007). Her paintings have also been shown in group exhibitions at the Bass Museum of Art in Miami in Florida; the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam; the Denver Art Museum; and Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam, among others. Recipient of the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Charlotte Köhler Award in 1999, Klein was also shortlisted for Rotterdam's 2012 Dolf Henkes Award. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the Berkeley Art Museum, Miami Art Museum, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Gemeentemuseum, and Thermenmuseum.

Carla Klein is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Jeffrey Uslip, Chief Curator.

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Contemporary Art
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