

SUVI KONTTINEN

- paints figures; close-ups of faces and studies of different impressions. She thinks the eyes are the most important part of what makes an impression – but they also leave a lot to be imagined if you can see nothing else. She likes to challenge the viewer. Her paintings are about feelings and moods, which are very personal and subjective, so everyone experiences her pieces differently.

It is very difficult to make a work look as it was painted quickly. The hardest part is to let go of the painting a bit too early. If you just keep on painting, you'll easily lose the freshness. These aspects are mastered in Suvi Konttinen's work. Konttinen has versatile experience in art, as she is also an art historian and a curator. This can be seen in her work, even though she avoids direct references to art history.

"You think I can't handle this?", 2006, acryl color, oil pastel, 39 X 55"



Konttinen doesn't sketch or plan all the details before she starts painting. Konttinen has an idea and a feeling of what she wants to accomplish.

Konttinen works very intuitively and reacts to the marks she makes as she paints. The piece tells her what to do next.



"Locate", 2006, acryl color, oil pastel, canvas, 36 X 67"

Suvi Konttinen mixes techniques to achieve texture and contrast – acryl color, charcoal, oil color, oil pastel, pencil, and different collaged materials.

Konttinen has a narrative feeling in her figurative work, which she emphasizes by using text.

The stenciled letters bring an essential structured element to her work – therefore she is able to leave the picture more abstract.



*"All your life you tried", 2006
Acryl color, oil pastel, canvas, 36 X 48"*

Suvi Konttinen makes strong, bold and expressionistic marks. She builds her paintings layer by layer by pasting materials on top of the paint layers, drawing with oil pastels and painting again.

One can see how the painting was built, as the layers and the base canvas can be seen here and there.

Sometimes she turns a painting around and keeps on painting. She is inspired by the surprisingly different appearance of the familiar image.

Suvi Konttinen thinks a good painting keeps showing you new things all the time. That's why you never get tired of looking at it. A good painting arouses feelings and thoughts. This is also what Konttinen wants to achieve in her paintings.