MODERN PAINTING

When Cheryl Rumbak opened Kalk Bay Modern 10 years ago, her vision was to showcase talented young artists alongside those more established. The former have now become the latter, and we believe that the new artists featured here will follow that same path.

Modern Painting brings together five exceptional artists whose work reflects the inherent nature of painting. Conscious of their process, they explore the boundaries of certainty, whether the concern lies in language, engineering, nature, human existence or memory. There is an underlying sense of instability that acts as a cohesive thread. The canvas itself becomes unstable.The edges are not considered ends. They know when to hold back and when to let go.

Gail Catlin’s interest in the natural world captures the unfixed quality of nature.

Lorienne Lotz’s abstract gestures summon content from secretive backgrounds*.* Intriguing forms evoke a sense of uncertainty and imbalance.

Mary Visser’s canvases take on their subject and become entities themselves – in limbo, and capable. When visiting Mary’s studio with Cheryl the two began speaking about the procedure one must undertake when travelling on airplanes. They discussed the vulnerability and the loss of control –recognizing that one must, at some point, surrender and trust in the procedure. This is a perfect metaphor for the act of painting, exemplified in tonight’s exhibition.

Our first new introduction is Sepideh Mehraban. Born and raised in Iran, Mehraban’s work attempts to grasp the complexities of a turbulent history. A courageous painter, Mehraban’s marks of memory battle for clarity against the surface.

Helen Teede is also a new introduction and the youngest in the show. Where Sepideh’s paintings are memories and fictions, Helen’s works are words or stories, arranged in combination to escape or instil their own meaning. Her titles act as guides, inviting us to create our own narrative.

There is an alluring quality that holds this exhibition together. Umberto Eco said that to survive you must tell stories. I hope that you will enjoy those shared here tonight.

* Michaela Limberis