

Emotion in Translation

Dolanbay, 2007

The series *Emotion in Translation* is an attempt to depict emotions in connection with their sources—that is, to visualise voidness as a materialisation practice within a stream of consciousness. It is a self-reflexive journey that emerges from the unknown territories of the self.

Artists should not separate the self from the work; the self is embedded within emotion, and emotions are the only objective realisation of the self—just as feelings such as despair, suffering, or pain are. The artist should strive for the articulation of emotion and aim to communicate its origin within objective reality. The painter becomes a mediator between life and the act of the medium. He or she should not impose control over the paint, but instead allow the unconscious to be guided by the medium itself—through which the artist realises and expresses emotion at the level of consciousness.

Dolanbay arrives at a method towards non-subjective, figurative painting. He takes the canvas on a journey to uncover the elemental aspects of life—the stains of both consciousness and the unconscious. These marks serve as indices of objective reality, engaging viewers on a collective level. The journey begins with thinned layers of oil paint flowing freely across the white surface, eventually settling into visible traces. These stains take on forms of their own, and the artist becomes absorbed in recognising the shapes that correspond to objective reality.

He continues this process layer by layer, allowing each stage to generate stains that may be transformed into a level of consciousness. At that level, emotion reveals its source in reality—shaped and mediated through the forms of the stain.

Dolanbay thus becomes a mediator between art and life, abstraction and figuration, consciousness and the unconscious, something and nothing.