

# Artist Portfolio Sofie Meerhof

- Artist Statement
- Exhibition at Westerdok 782
- Exhibition at Fedlev in the Rietveld Academie
- Horizon work

Underneath the torn away bark on the bottom of the tree were subtle colors. I was walking the dog. She was relieving herself and some kids were playing, so I had to make sure no unfortunate accidents would happen and I quickly cleaned up. All this means that I could not fully focus on what I was seeing in the tree. But afterwards, those colors from the tree stayed on my mind. They were soft and changing slightly all the time, shifting through muted pinks and beiges.

Later I came back to paint. Filling canvasses with these colors, one shade per surface, gave me the opportunity to linger for a while and view them as phenomena, instead of as part of a wider context.

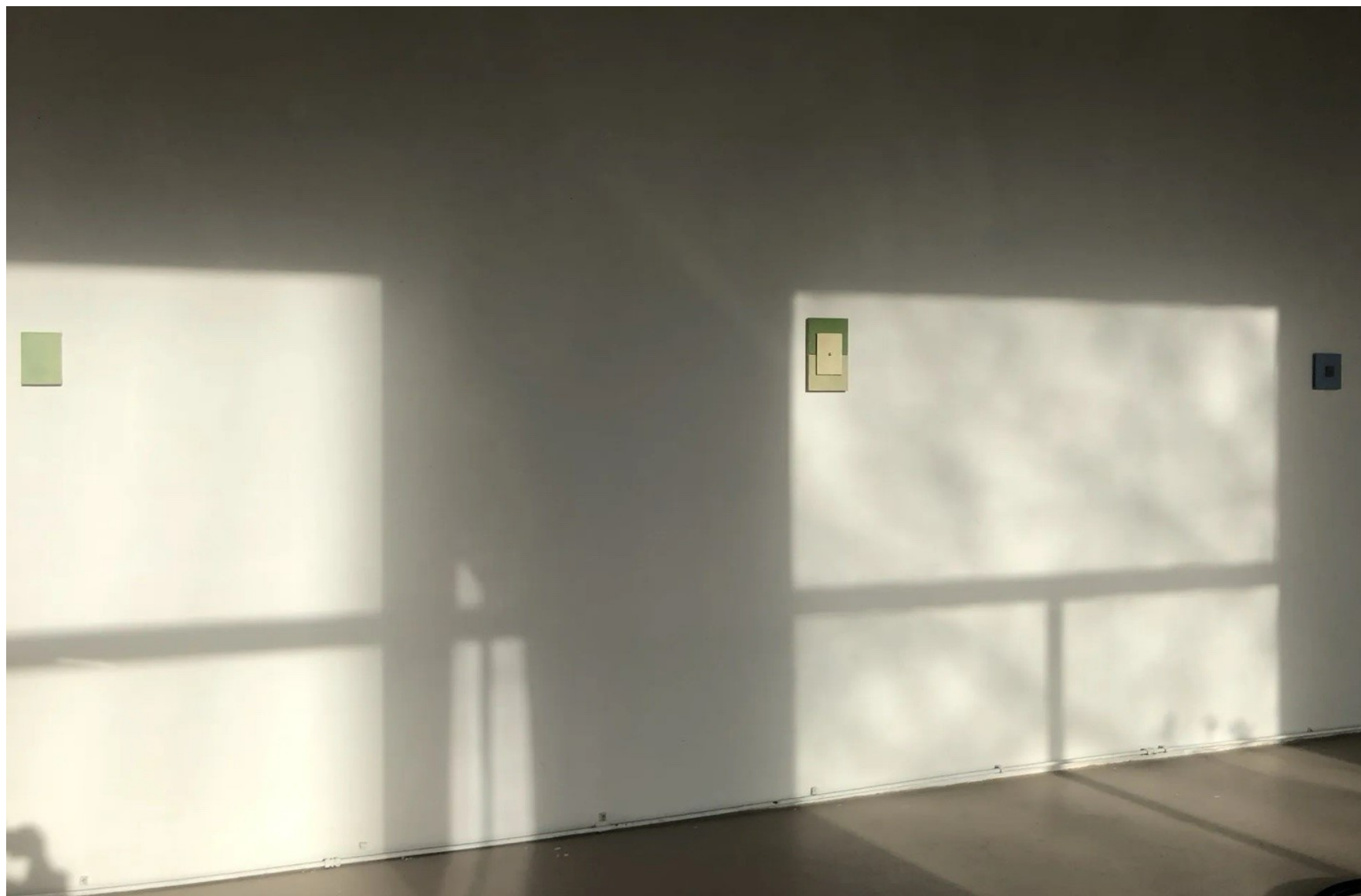
When I first saw the tree, the nuances and subtleties of the colors underneath the bark almost drowned in the abundance of information that surrounded them. 'Muting' the environment was needed, in order to see the subtleties: an active stance of directed attention that blinds us to parts of the place that we are in. A tunnel vision of sorts.

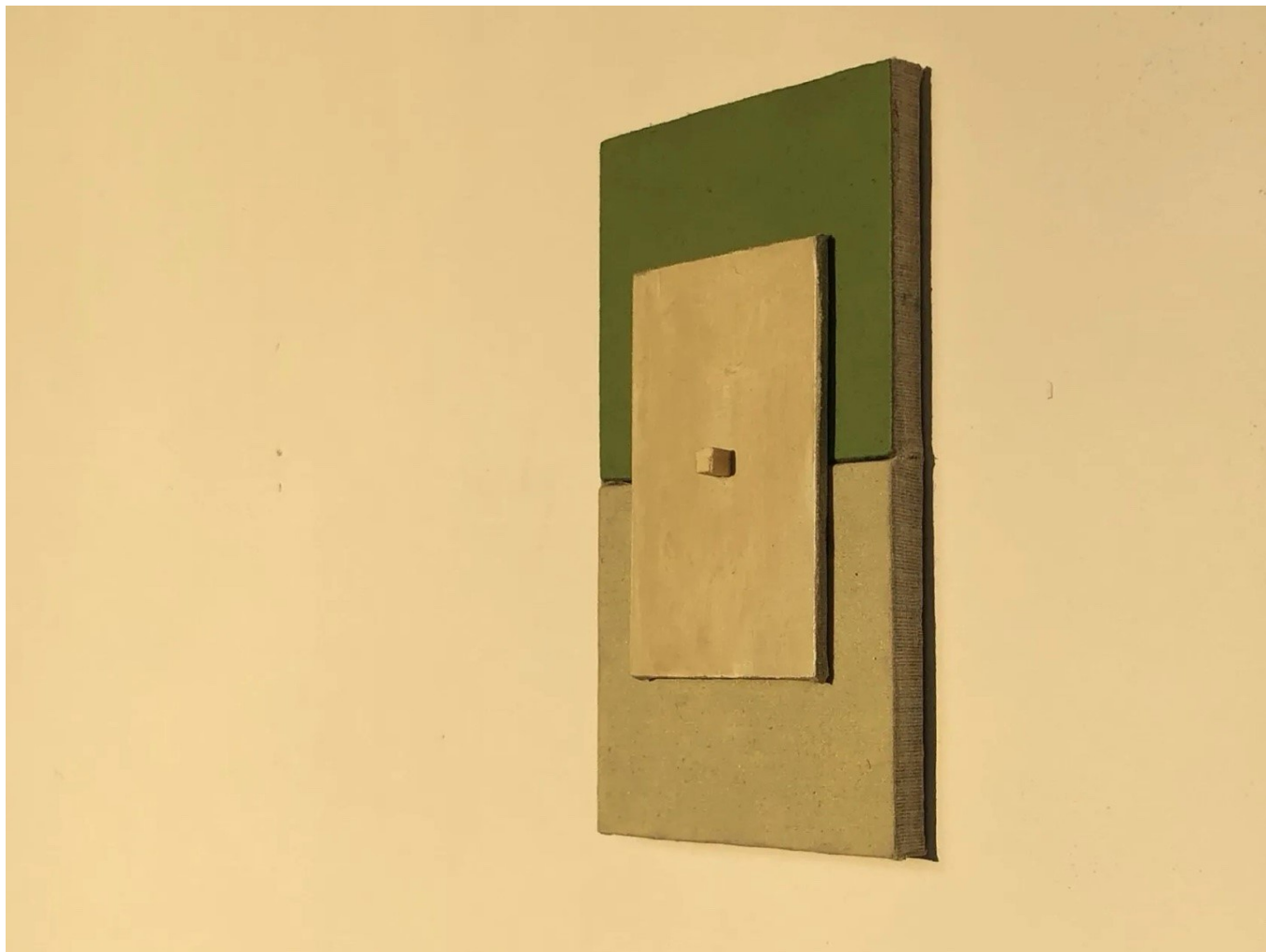
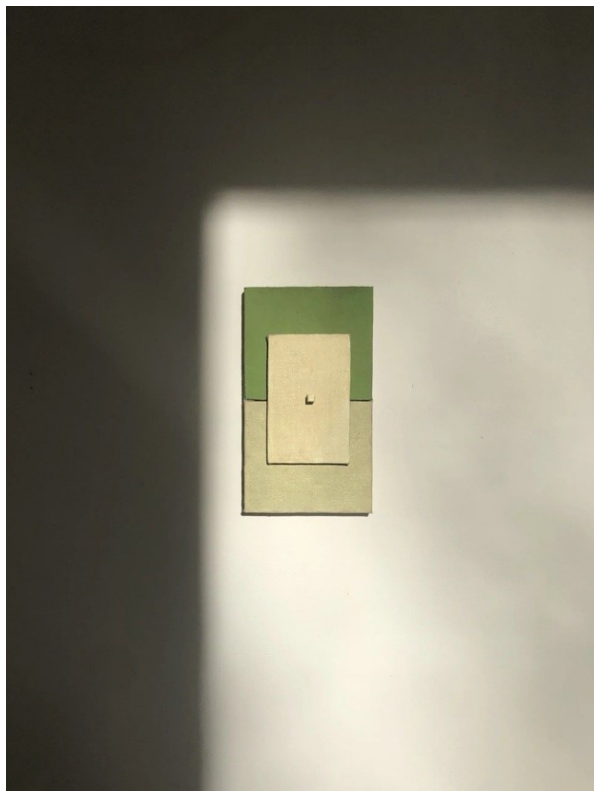
In my practice I attempt to work my way around this mechanism. I try to give subtleties a firmness of presence that allows them to take on an active role instead of a passive one. The firmness allows nuances themselves to speak, so there is no longer a need for 'muting'. Environmental inputs that were once distractions become a natural context, allowing for a more open and "full" experience.

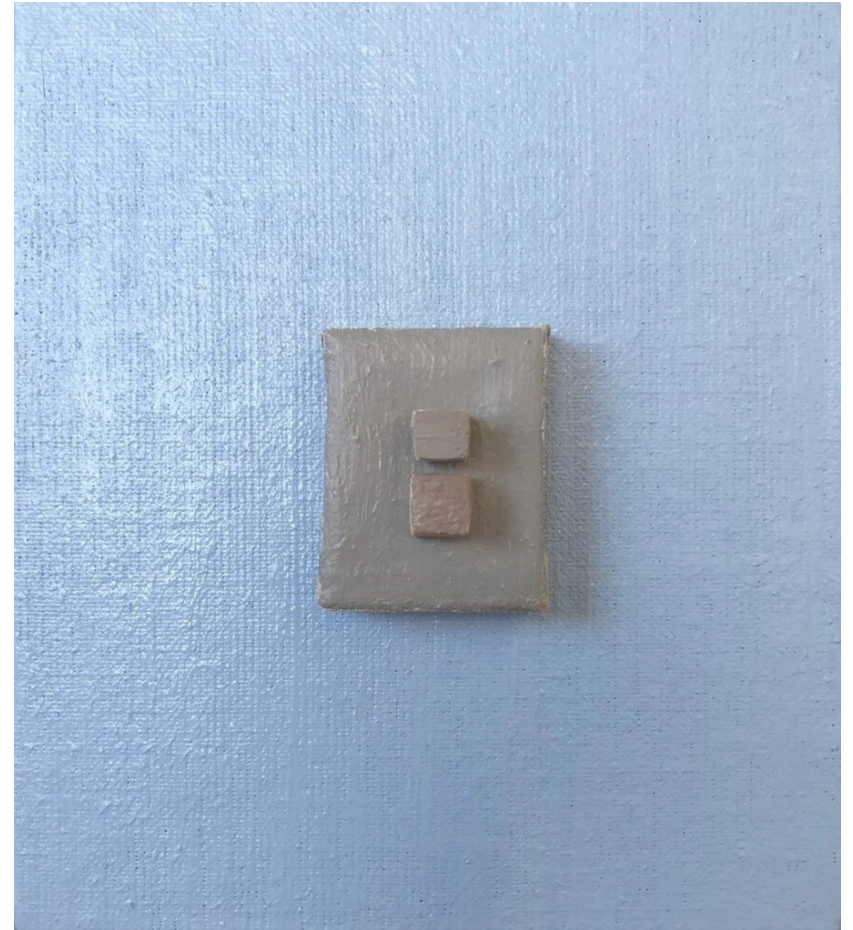
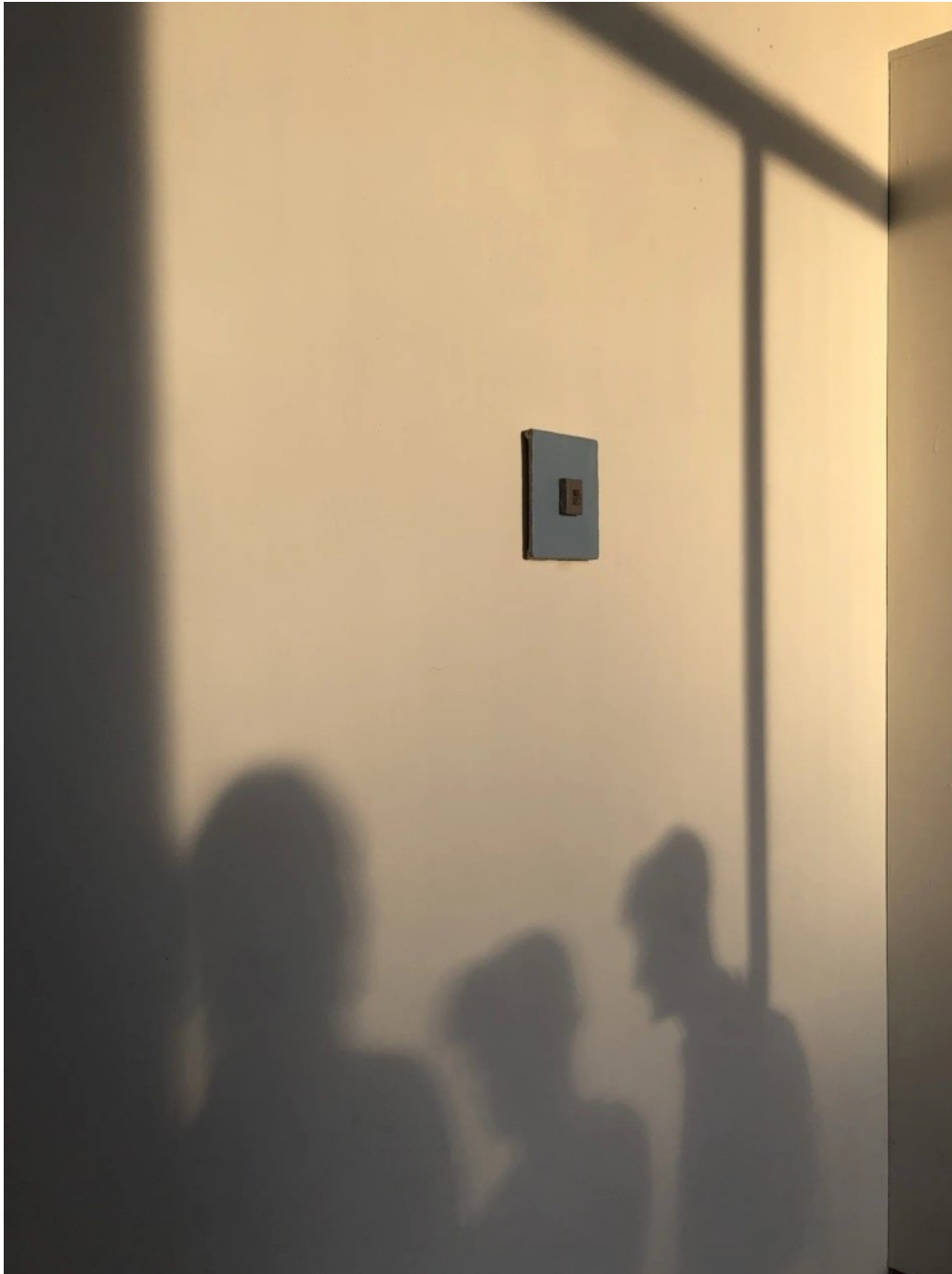
I have noticed that a physical manifestation of an experience can fortify a sense of presence. A sense of presence as a byproduct of intimate attention. And sometimes such a manifestation becomes so firm in its simplicity that it becomes very immediate in the space. It kind of evolves into a companion.

I am experimenting with the relation between painting, sculpture and architecture to see how this immediateness or sense of company can be achieved.

Exhibition at Westerdok 782, 14/04/22







These works have remained untitled. Sometimes I share that the work in blue is inspired by my mother on the beach. The green work is an impression of moss within cracks of the sidewalk, catching some highlights from the sun.

Exhibition at Fedlev, Rietveld Academie 08/12/22



Reliëf on a free standing wall.

In viewing the work, there is a softness on the eyes that feels inviting and very flat. This is a work that is open to receive environmental light and let it play on the surface. This openness to receive gives it a sense of presence that is almost 'aware' but still layed back. It has been described as kind. I enjoy spending time with this. It is an object that likes to be lived with.



## Horizon work



24 x 17 cm

While driving in the car, I wondered what it would be like to be able to see the color of the sky and the color of the asphalt, and bring them together. Two panels of anodized aluminum painted with oils, together forming a sculptural horizon. I enjoy exploring feelings of intimate space and distance.

