MICHAEL **CRAIK**
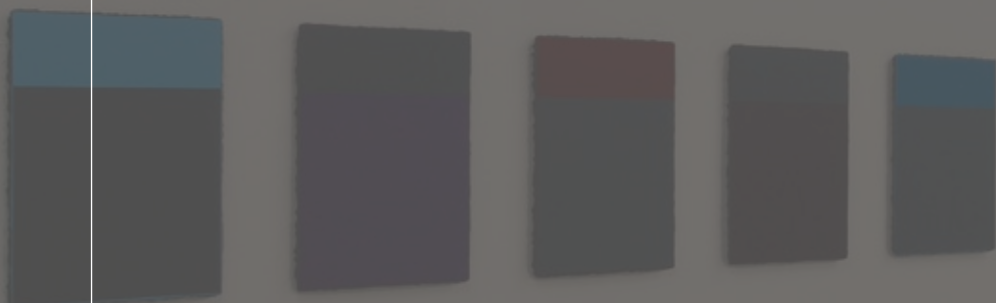ERIC **CRUIKSHANK**

MALEREI
GALERIE ALBRECHT
BERLIN

MALEREI
GALERIE ALBRECHT
BERLIN
14 SEPTEMBER
TO 12 OCTOBER
2013

SQUARING THE CIRCLE

Squares and rectangles, mapped out in colour upon a wall, created by a person unseen: the building blocks of what we perceive on the most basic level, as creative communication. Entering into the exchange with Craik and Cruikshank we engage in a process of un-doing, where fleeting impressions are deceptive.

Adding and subtracting multiple delicate layers of pigmented glaze, the artists work their subtle alchemy on the boundaries of the picture plane; within the considered act of painting and un-painting a myth of flatness and opacity is simultaneously cast and deconstructed. The spectator's eye roams, resting a while on the edges of the support (a whispered background reference in our search for origin). Taking a visual leap, we perceive this precipice before willingly escaping the constraints of geometry.

Craik creates eye-pleasing plateaux, where the erosion of converging strata is bordered by softly undulating drips or sheer edges of exposed ground. Where the run-off of prior glazes gather and hang, the fluid is rendered solid: sculptural, elemental; like two tones of clay kneaded together. Yet the hand of the maker is notably absent, leaving us to consider the traces of an intangible history.

Craik's delicate excavations uncover clues to a unique language, articulated in stanzas formed of pairs or series. Relationships are built and balanced, selected intuitively as thoughts shift between nature and culture.
The breakdown of a colour ratio reads as a horizon and Aluminium sheet (the synthetic material borne of a desire for architectural lightness and durability) is transformed by environment, time and personal projection, to embody the washed softness of a pebble.

Cruikshank sends a depth-charge into the boundless possibilities of environment and landscape. Harmonious colour-pairings glow in soft halos, each registering its likeness in a partner. A measured deepening of hue creates four saturated vanishing points where corners recede and memories fade.

Where subtle tonal shifts converge, evanescent forms resist our scrutiny, like ghosts on the retina. The act of direct and purposeful looking negates the forms we are conditioned to seek.

Despite their tiny scale, the works on paper harness an immense energy from the push and pull of each layer. Materials clash, each fighting to make its presence felt as the next attempts to obliterate it. Past actions reverberate throughout Cruikshank's work, unsettling their apparent stillness. We wander into mental territories which challenge nature itself as a construct.

In imparting a measured ambiguity to the notions of subject and object, the artists permit the beholder to actively inhabit the space which lies in-between. If 'squaring the circle' represents an exercise in futility, Craik and Cruikshank evade simple solutions by making, melting, and moving beyond the square.

Kate Andrews

Trace 2013_12
Acrylic on Aluminium
30cm x 30cm
2013

MICHAEL **CRAIK**
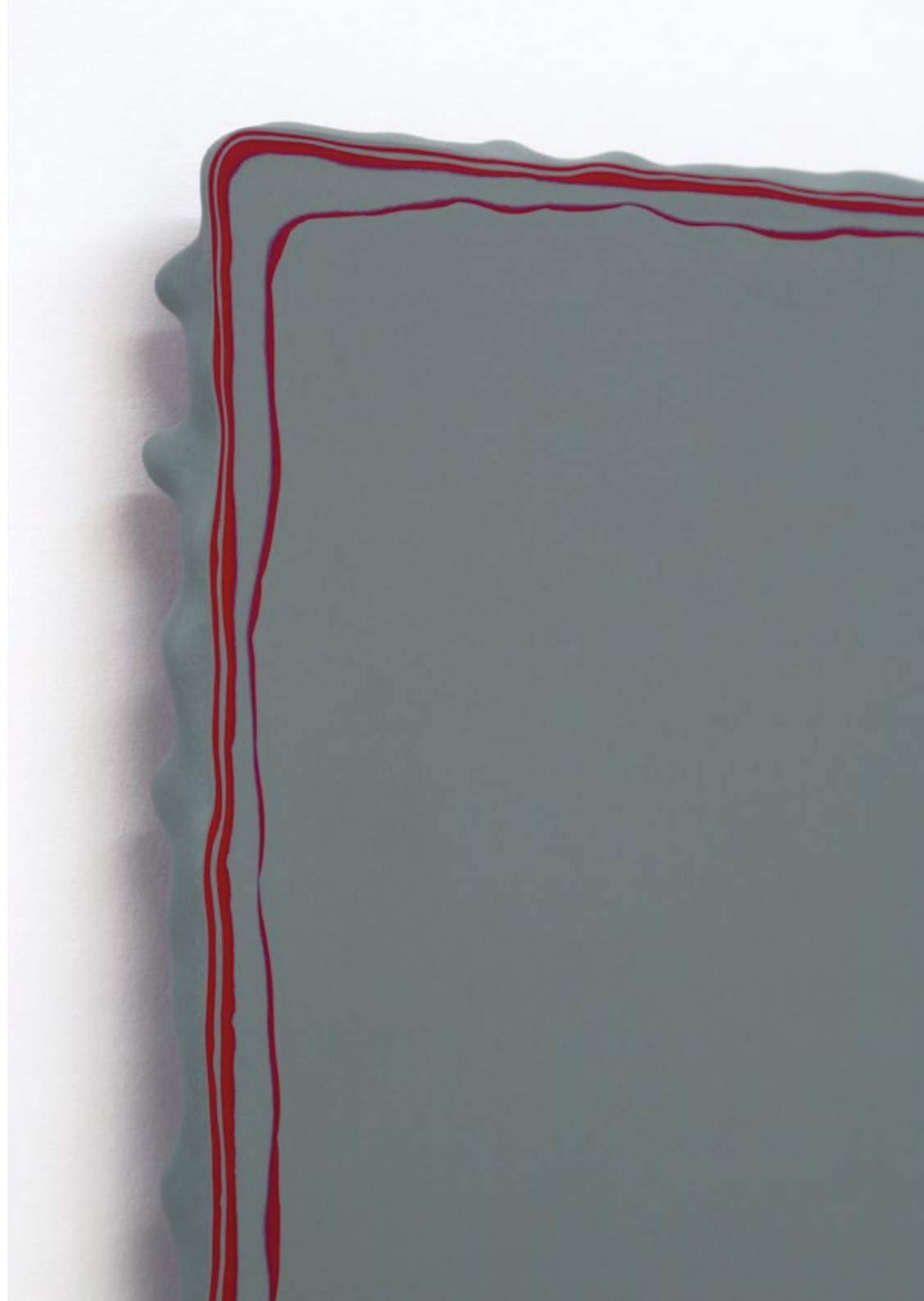
Top:
Vestige 2013_5
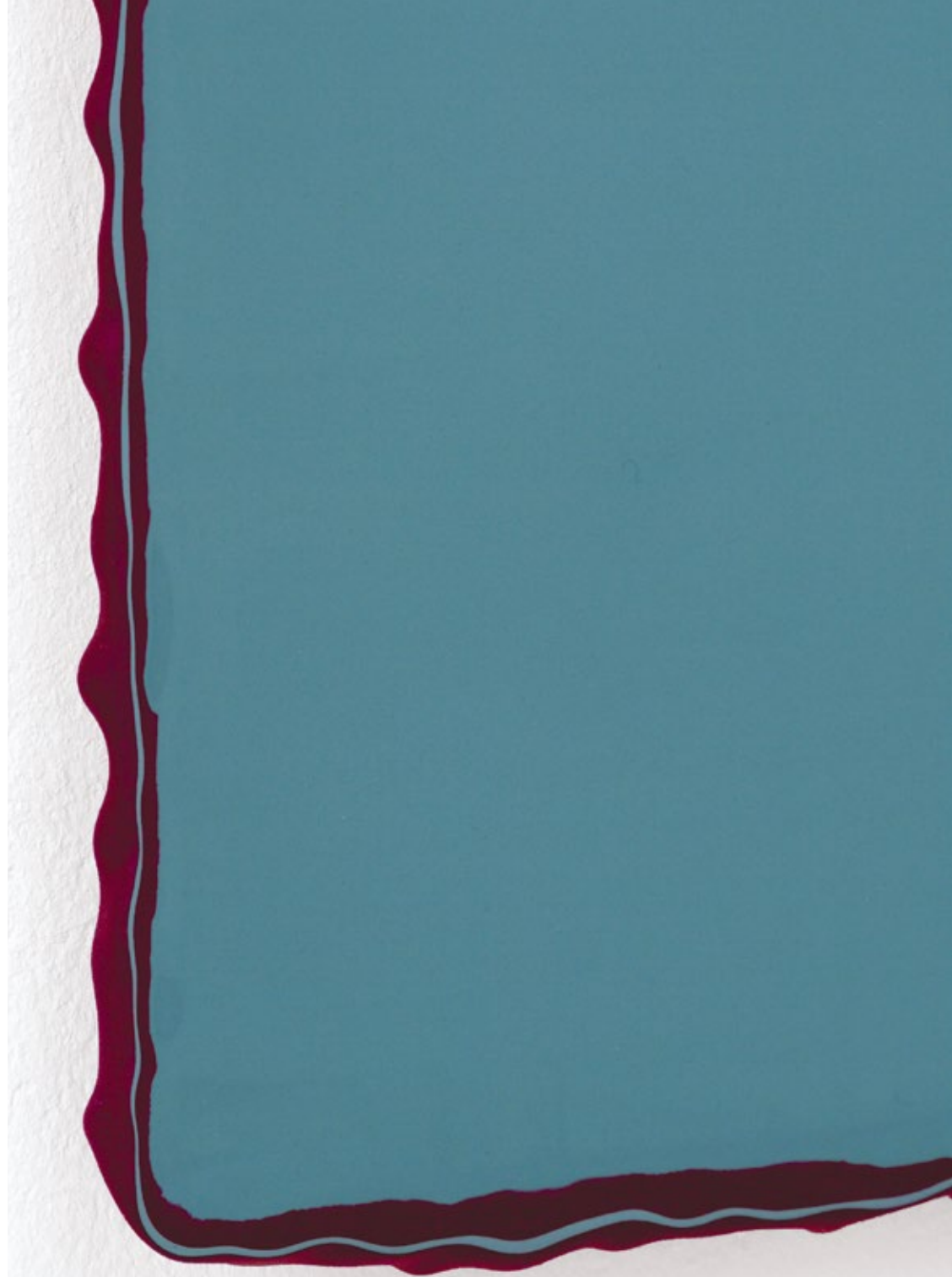Acrylic on Aluminium
28cm x 28cm
2013

Bottom:
Vestige 2013_7
Acrylic on Aluminium
28cm x 28cm
2013

Right:
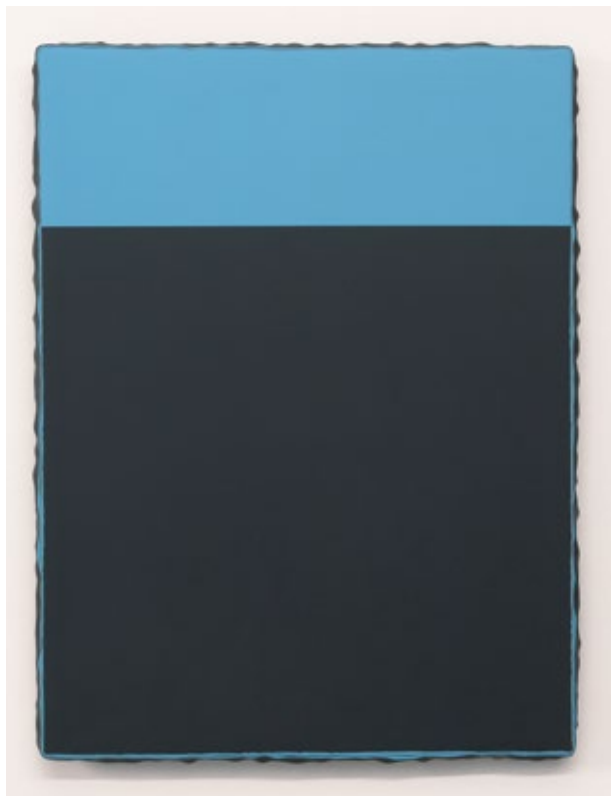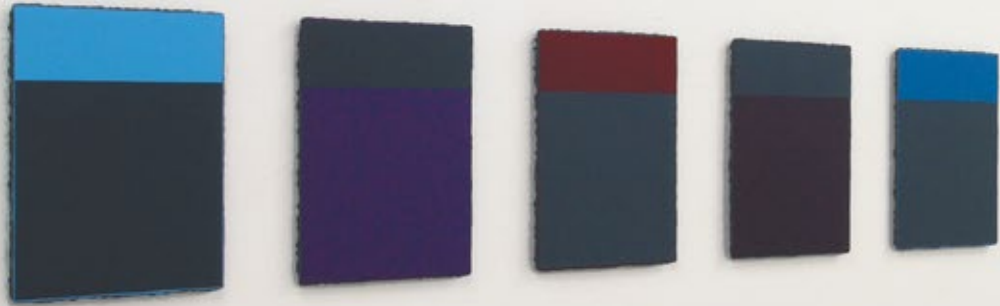**Vestige 2013_6**
Acrylic on Aluminium
28cm x 28cm
2013

Trace 2013_4
Acrylic on Aluminium
60cm x 60cm
2013

MICHAEL **CRAIK**

Trace 2013_6
Acrylic on Aluminium
30cm x 40cm
2013

MICHAEL CRAIK

Untitled
Oil on Board
61cm x 61cm
2013

ERIC CRUIKSHANK

All works:
Untitled
Mixed Media on Paper
45cm x 35cm (paper size)
2013

Untitled
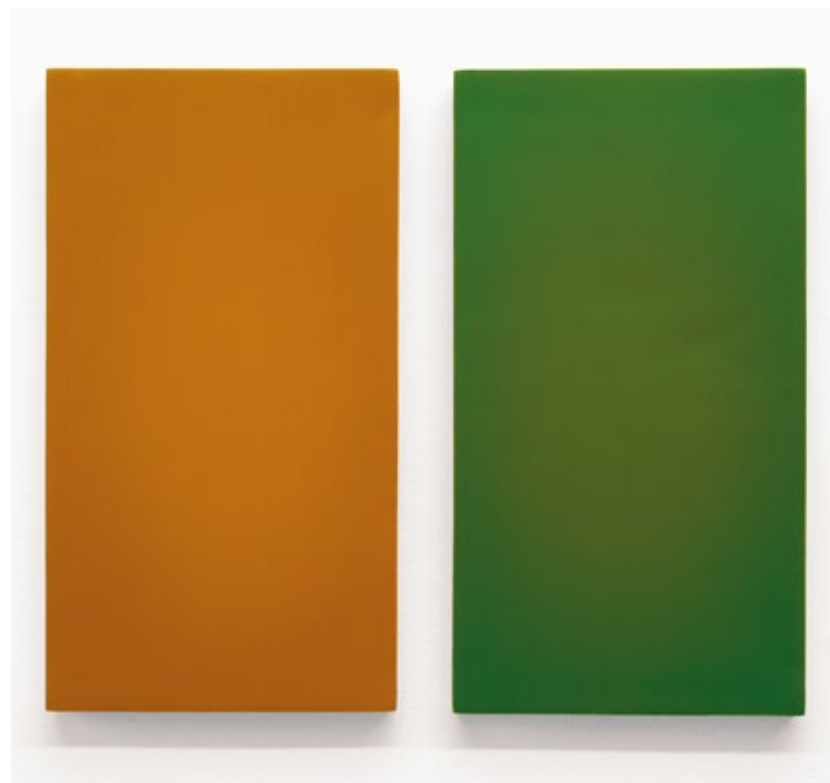Oil on Two Boards
33.5cm x 32cm (with split)
2013

Untitled
Oil on Two Boards
28cm x 32cm (with split)
2013

MICHAEL | CRAIK

(Born 1972 in Edinburgh)

Studied Fine Art at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen before completing an MA in European Fine Art in Barcelona. He currently lives and works in Edinburgh. Craik has been the recipient of several awards including a Scottish Arts Council Creative Development Award and an Arts Trust of Scotland Award. His work is in the collections of The Fleming Collection, The Royal Bank of Scotland and Mastercard.

Selected solo and joint exhibitions
Malerei, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin (2013)
Build, Galerie Salon 13, BOK, Offenbach (2013)
Razed To The Ground, Amber Roome Contemporary Art, Edinburgh (2007)
Plate Tectonics, Galería Alonso Vidal, Barcelona (2006)
An Tuireann Arts Centre, Portree (2006)

Selected group exhibitions
Materials, Galerie P13, Heidelberg (2011)
Reflection: Contemporary Visual Arts & Crafts in Edinburgh,
City Art Centre, Edinburgh (2011)
Paint Can, The Travelling Gallery, Various Locations in Scotland (2009)
Strata, Sarah Myerscough, London (2008)
ArtSway Open 06, ArtSway, Sway (2006)
Art Futures, Contemporary Art Society, London (2005)
Mostyn Open 12, Oriel Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno (2002)
Big Small New, Houldsworth, London (2000)

www.michaelcraik.com

ERIC | CRUIKSHANK

(Born 1975 in Inverness)

Studied Painting and Drawing at Edinburgh College of Art. He currently lives and works in Edinburgh. Cruikshank has been the recipient of several awards including a Pollock-Krasner Award and a Hi-Arts Exhibition Grant. He has also undertaken residencies at Mustarinda, Finland and The Santa Fe Art Institute, USA.

Selected solo and joint exhibitions
Malerei, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin (2013)
Colour as Subject, Patriothall Gallery, Edinburgh (2013)
The Solo Project-Basel, with Galerie Albrecht (2012)
When I Was Small I Didn't Work Big, Galerie Albrecht, Berlin (2010)
The Colour of Home, Gebert Contemporary, Santa Fe (2010)
En Forme, ParisCONCRET, Paris (2010)
Colour Light Space, Highland Institute for Contemporary Art, Inverness-shire (2009)

Selected group exhibitions
Anonymous Drawings, Kunstverein Tiergarten, Berlin – traveling to Galerie
Delikatessenhaus, Leipzig & TAC, Eindhoven (2013)
Poste Concret, ParisCONCRET, Paris (2011)
Dalcross Project Space, Inverness-shire (2010)
CGP Open, Café Gallery Projects, London (2009)
Tercet Space, Intermedia Gallery, Glasgow (2005)

www.ericcruikshank.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SC**O**TT HOPE