

# WHAT IS

#014

## En Route To Lightness

Study

Acrylic / Oil on canvas  
75x120cm  
Framed in black  
2020

*A few days ago, I started to work on a new painting. All I can tell you for now is that it is blue. I used three blue pigments in substantial quantities; Cobalt Turquoise, Ultramarine Blue Deep, and Prussian Blue. First, I primed the canvas with a blue gesso then directly scattered the pigments all over, in small interlacing jets. Next, I crushed down the rough pigment granules with cotton paper on the wet canvas. I left the canvas to dry. The second day I took the painting outside and applied a layer of matte varnish. On the third day, I applied a second layer, enough to keep some of the granules soluble.*

*In general, blue represents everything that is unattainable. Things we cannot grasp in our hands (or our mind) because when we try to, we realize they are virtual or better, divine. Like the sky and the sea. But my intention with the blue is not to invoke divinity, though many viewers would experience its mystery. I only want to make the void, visible. Like Yves Klein. And that is the premise of blue.*

*The law of gravity is at work. The mood all around is heavy with enough pull to bring any spirit down, squash it, or worse, enslave it in representation. It is imperative I don't succumb to the easiness of an obvious slide into portraiture. Therefore, I will park the last two bastions of my visual language (body and relation) which were anchoring the viewer with meanings, and bring forward these real, unidentifiable, abstract, and weightless self-illuminated things to a cosmic grandeur.*

*The things are transparent, semi-transparent, and opaque. Their receding perspective gives the impression of a moving formation. Though the colors are few, the palette is rich (because of the soluble blue granules). The blue balances the rest; greens fade in it to accentuate the receding perspective, the translucent ocher and burnt amber slow down the drift while the vitreous reds add energy. You are on board and you are the captain of a fleeting moment.*

## The Painting Is Not Here

*En Route To Lightness* will be published in the next issue. It will be amazing if you can share with me the mental image you constructed when you read my notes and next week your impression when you see the painting.



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