

For the catalogue of *Invaluable*, at APT Gallery London, 2011

Low Pink Hum 1998 acrylic on canvas 57 x 66 cm

Sometimes, during working periods that are more exploratory than usual, a painting seems to arrive by accident. It interrupts to announce a whole new chapter - although what that will turn out to be is a mystery, for quite a while.

I was more intent on what to avoid as painting language - some of the conventions I had grown up with, which had begun to feel overly familiar. I remember testing out methods of clearing and wiping, preoccupied with colour coming through colour, and in the process discovering pictorial structures, and their associations, which were new to me.

Hindsight shows a pattern to these surprises. First there is a kind of suspicion mixed with fascination, a hunch, then a decision to leave it be, to look away and come back to it another time. After many versions on other canvases, trying to understand what I am finding so intriguing, I become more conscious of what the intruder implied and where it has been leading. By that stage I have recognised it as a painting, the first of a new series, and I feel relieved that I gave it its chance.

