In his latest paintings Rolf Behm has the working material immersed into a fluid and plane space where they - according to their nature, consistence and composition-resemble ephemeral incidences and its arrangement in that space seems to be but temporary.

These paintings are no crystalization of momentary situations, bringing to a standstill any of their qualities or characterictic features but instead do they appear open processes of chain reaction that produce innumerous color-blended surfaces (such as blurrings, drippings, bubbles and diffluences) as well as fragmented forms (quite often a melting process from one form into another or forms in dissolution). By their extreme immediacy these agglutinated surfaces, bare of any spectator's privileged angle of view and therefore seeming rather arbitrarily distributed, do not leave any margin for polarising questioning, especially not on figurative or abstract representation.

These various planes, colors, lines, spots and blurs as well as the different manners of presentation constitute a coherent ensemble but at the same time, they are being dissolved into other elements and pictorial incidents. In their great majority they dispose of the strong capacity to associate with something very different: here with dense vegetation, or there with parts of an animal's body, a piece of broken mineral, the firmament above or a glance into a microcosm using strong lenses of an optical device. In all these manifestations of matter, from compact density to loose aggregate, we perceive the continous idea, that all things are unfinished and have still to be explored for much longer. As a matter of fact, looking at these paintings does not just mean to decrypt what they may adumbrate or even hide, but it also means to actively take part in the phenomena that are unfolding in front of our eyes.

Jose Augusto Ribeiro,

curator, Sao Paolo, Brazil