

Absence Constellations

As an administrator at a highschool Maria Lavman Vetö compiles absence reports for the 2000 students. The student's configured absence creates a curiosity and wonder about their actual being. In the artistic process, Lavman Vetö has reworked monthly absence reports both digital and analogue. The graphical report consists of rectangles representing valid versus invalid absence shown in a grid system. She has intuitively color-coded absence during the school year's the months following the seasons colors. The digital absence reports have been stored layer by layer in a graphics program. Magnified details from various constellations of the reports (for example; a particular class, program, year or month) have been carefully selected and have become models for the exhibition's 60 paintings.

The different colored rectangles in the paintings, in their simplicity, offer multiple interpretations of the works. The abstract motifs are possible to read as sequences of everyday, random events; such as time in graphic design, as rhythms, as scores or just as color and form. To be surrounded by the paintings; the physical presentations of actual measured time, is a visual experience of order, harmony and rigor.

Absence constellations blur the boundaries between the wage work's everyday life and artistic practice; between presence and absence; coincidence and calculation.

Hannah Federley Holmkvist (translation: Maria Lavman Vetö)