

## **Artist statement**

Two paintings out of a series of four. These were started during PCPD in 2020, and later explored and clarified in ASM. These two paintings both have a landscape format and a strata composition. Format is A4 (30cm x 21 cm/12"x8"). They are painted on watercolour paper, 300 g/m<sup>2</sup>-140lbs, in acrylic paint. The other two paintings in this series turned out quite different, therefore I don't bring them here.

These paintings describe the atmosphere of Svalbard at 79 degrees north. That nature made a great impact on me as well as the fact how fast the glaciers rapidly melts because temperature keeps getting warmer. I chose these two paintings because I love them and because they represent an interesting and exciting period of my life. These paintings were created in an intuitive process, started in the play stage with a limited palette of the two complementary colours Ultramarine Blue + Cad. Orange + black and white. Through play, explore and clarify stages these paintings evolved.

### **My top three design elements:**

Texture: I love texture. I used to be a weaving teacher for some years, and I like to touch fabrics and objects with my hands to feel and study the surface. Now I try to create the visual textures in my paintings. To create the texture in the big rocks I have used a lot of thin layers mixed with water. I have used tools like rollers and posca pens for mark making. On the edge of the glacier, I used a ball scraper to create the texture of the ice front and the texture of the snow on top.

Value: I have experienced that value contrasts are very important to bring life into my painting, to attract the viewer's attention, and to help me get unstuck in the process. During the process of making one of these paintings, I was stuck for a while, but to paint the top right mountain darker and to glaze the water in front with a darker blue got me going.

These two paintings both have a predominance of midtones, and a little more of light values than of the darks. The one is slightly lighter than the other. The highest value contrasts are where the white snow on the ice and on the glacier meets the land and the sea. Highlights were the saturated orange meets the desaturated blue/grey. More transparent and less opaque colours emphasize the melting process. I love warm colours, and even though the environment described here is cold, there is a predominance of warm colours.

Shapes: I love organic shapes and soft edges. The transitions between the shapes and the edges are my top struggles. It is difficult for me to create rectilinear lines and hard edges that I like, and I often use stripes as a help to get structure into my paintings. I love stripes. There is a variety in size, colour, and texture of the shapes.