

**Mette Tommerup**  
**Artist Statement**

Raw uncut canvases, saltwater and pigments, the foundation of my recent works, came from the sea and the earth. The rawness of the materials marked by these natural elements offer viewers entry to an underpainting of tactile corporality. With prop-like landforms, the exhibition spaces transform into stages leading the audience to constructions made up of bare essentials and invite them into a world before our collective conscience. They can activate entire rolls of canvases that are in dialogue with stretched work creating a sense of liberation and play. This carefully designed mythos aims to empower the participants to examine established constructs and tackle challenges in society.

This performative story began years ago with a narrative of how my miniature seascape paintings, with humble wills of their own and capable of conscious choice returned to their source—the sea. In subsequent shows, *Ocean Loop* and *Love, Ur*, the narrative grew, and the paintings returned and explored life on land. For the upcoming *Made by Dusk*, the paintings have their sight on the sky, specifically dusk, when light turns to darkness. This performance furthers the concept of paintings as “actors in their own right” as they push for reconfiguration through process and abstraction.