

Formal Analysis of *Untitled* by Beatrice Caracciolo
Hill Art Foundation
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Beatrice Caracciolo, *Untitled*, 2016. Pigment, tempera, graphite, and water-soluble chalk on paper mounted on canvas, 57 1/4 × 67 1/2 inches (145.4 × 171.5 cm). The Hill Collection. © Beatrice Caracciolo. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York. Photo: Steven Probert.

Untitled by Beatrice Caracciolo is a compelling painting that captivates viewers with its mystique. The longer the viewer sits with the piece and analyzes it, the viewer will notice the subtle shifts in line and color. The work seems familiar and unfamiliar at the same time, much like something you think you have seen before but actually have not. Her work takes inspiration from Chinese painting tradition and continually draws on other cultures. The importance and essence of the piece lies in its ambiguity. Caracciolo is very important to the world of abstract art and this is exemplified in her work currently on view at the Hill Art Foundation's *The Sea, the Sky, a Window*.

This artwork is made up of materials such as metals, different pigments, and chalk on a 57 by 67 inch canvas. The abstraction and calculated randomness of this work can be telling of Beatrice Caracciolo's emotions and creative process when making *Untitled*. The mood of the painting appears to be unfocused or foggy. *Untitled*, specifically, is a painting on a clear canvas that has some shades of brown with a light, mostly white background. The foreground of this painting is abstract elements that cannot be described well with words. In the gallery, the painting is hung above Sarah Crowner's *Platform (Stretched Pentagons)*, an interactive art piece that is made out of blue tiles and can be walked on. This pairing creates a sensory experience for the viewer. Caracciolo's work reveals the beauty of the abstract to those who view it. In the context of *Untitled* by Beatrice Caracciolo, the piece invites whoever looks at it to interpret anything, and in a way make their own canvas in their mind. Her deliberate decision to not title the piece lends even more to its mysterious elements.

Beatrice Caracciolo was born on July 28, 1955, which makes her 68 years old. When she created the piece, she was 61 years of age. Beatrice Caracciolo is an Italian artist who was born in Brazil and is currently living in France. At 68 years old, Beatrice Caracciolo continues to draw inspiration from a diverse selection of sources that shape a distinct art form that reflects her. Spirituality and philosophy along with the influences from Chinese calligraphy and painting further contribute to the uniqueness of her creations. She uses various mediums such as graphite, oil, pastels, and specific pigments to express different parts of her artistic brilliance. The combination of these inspirations, materials, and mediums lends itself to a larger and more complete idea that is expressed on the canvas. It is unclear how the artists made *Untitled*, but it is most likely similar to the multimedia creative process she uses in perfecting other works.

Through Caracciolo's use of diverse techniques and influences, she continues to serve as a reminder that art has no age or rules.

In her studio process, Beatrice Caracciolo pushes the boundaries of abstraction. Her artistic approach is making works that make a viewer deeply analyze and think about what is in front of them. Her skills lie within her ability to show just enough that you can barely make sense of what you are being shown. The seemingly intentional battle between clarity and mystery makes her art more complex than what is just shown to the viewer; her art is an experience for whoever views it.

While one can acknowledge the artistic value of Caracciolo's artworks, the viewer may draw a larger understanding if the artist incorporates more visible and clear elements. Abstract art is typically harder to comprehend for those who are unfamiliar with the genre. If one who is not too familiar with her work or abstract works views this piece, they can fail to grasp the understanding that someone more familiar would. The transition from first seeing the piece and seeing nothing to seeing depth after more thought and nuance highlights the power of Caracciolo's work as well as the viewer's deep engagement with it.

Untitled by Beatrice Caracciolo stands as a profound example of strong abstract art, showing its ability to not be fixed into one thing but rather completely boundless. The purposeful ambiguity within the artwork serves as a thought-provoking element that further enhances the experience of whoever views it. Caracciolo's creation pushes the confines of visual art and marks the quintessence of abstraction: individual perception.

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