Shades of home

In 2012 we gave the American painter Jeff Kowatch (born 1965 in Los Angeles, lives in Brussels) the highly enthusiastic reception he deserved for his first exhibition at Galerie Faider. It is with the same sense of delight that we welcome him again to the same venue - now with a renovated lighting system which works wonders to expertly highlight the paintings. Jeff Kowatch's work here is made of subtly diaphanous, refined, and nuanced shades, which maintain the same beguiling poetic tone that we had enjoyed in his previous paintings. They do not describe or illustrate. Instead, they act, thanks to a unique atmosphere and refined touch, to provide the receptive viewer with a range of emotions as rich, nuanced and delicate as the understated colours that the artist chooses. With Jeff Kowatch, we encounter a visual world in a state of sublimation, a chromatic radiation that connects with more than our visual sense alone. It penetrates our innermost fibers in the same way a mountain mist can recast and completely transform our vision of the world. This time, the artist has entitled his exhibition "The Belgian Odyssey paintings", explaining that since coming to live in Belgium, he has slowly been inspired with new shades of colour which are somehow gentler, more unruffled and tender. His paintings, while remaining abstract and informal, are increasingly linked to mental or imaginary impressions of landscapes, and in which we find muted greens, autumnal browns, and hundreds more of the utmost refined shades, offering up a delicately poised and muted luminosity.