

For catalogue of *Fade Away*, Transition Gallery, London 2010, travelling to Gallery North, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2011

*Surfaced Later (3)* was a few months in the making, one of those paintings which hang around the studio unresolved, some of them never completed. Eventually, in a final stage, the cream paint was brushed across the whole surface, and then wiped away towards the edges. It usually takes many attempts before the drawing into the wet paint is right. The last move was to wipe clean the colours of the circular forms, the only three to survive from the multi-coloured checkerboard which began the work. Varying constellations had been excavated at different stages, and this trio I decided to keep. They were there from the beginning, but not made articulate until the last move. I could only make sense of them when I discovered what I wanted for the final covering, and how to break through it. Making sense, for me, involves the process of recognizing how light and space can be constructed within the properties of painting, and how this could relate to experience in the world. It relies on finding an image, or set of relationships, which tells of this process. The resolution can be very elusive; I think I enjoy the contradictions between strategic planning and desperate impulse that seem necessary to the search.

Mali Morris 2010

Mali Morris *Surfaced Later* 2010 acrylic on canvas 26 x 31 cm

