

With his right hand he was holding the poker that was making the flames shoot up. His left hand, the free one, was within her reach. Lóri knew she could take it, that he wouldn't refuse; but she didn't take it, because she wanted things "to happen" and not set them in motion herself. She knew the world of people who anxiously hunt down pleasures and don't know how to wait for them to arrive on their own. And it was so tragic: you only had to look around a nightclub, in the half light: it was the search for pleasure that doesn't come by and of itself. She'd only gone with some of her men from the past, maybe two or three times, and hadn't wanted to go back. Because the search for pleasure, when she'd tried it, had been bad water: she'd put her mouth on the tap, which tasted like rust and only gave two or three drops of lukewarm water: it was dry water. No, she'd thought, better real suffering than forced pleasure. She wanted Ulisses's left hand and knew she wanted it, but she did nothing, since she was enjoying the very thing she was needing: being able to have that hand if she stretched out her own.

A likeness between things when the things are otherwise entirely different

A posture

A technique (motor skill, tool)

Analogy between poking the painterly surface (brush) and poking the fire (poker)

A posture (sitting on a couch, the left hand idle) and technique (poker)

Figuration for a group of paintings

Poking wooden logs with a metal rod to change spatial relations of the logs so as to reach a desired situation or a desired degree of a situation (intensity of fire, heat and light felt, etc.) so as to avoid an undesired situation (too much or too little)

Poking anonymous pigments prepared in bought tubes on the painterly surface so as to reach a desired situation

so as to avoid an undesired situation

What can we learn from contemplating the painter's idle hand? Did it reinforce the gestures of its stereo partner or was it hanging somewhere close to the hip? Which muscles twitched in the idle hand while these painterly gestures were reified on the other side?