

Meditations on Color and Music

Artist Statement, Ani Magai

Meditations on Color and Music is a series of 30 x 30 inch paintings which I began in 2012 while living in Abiquiu, New Mexico. I was thinking about music and color and had tried other formats for exploring this idea — mainly the grid — when I fell upon the idea of marks as visual notes. Marks on a black ground are my notes on a ground of silence.

For each painting, I choose seven colors which would be like the seven tones in a musical scale. I use three dominant colors, like the three notes of the chord, two supporting colors as the 4th and 7th in the scale, and two minor colors, being the 2nd and 6th. I choose the colors by super-imposing the color wheel on the circle of fifths, and then modifying the tones to work together. The ground is made of up to six coats of black acrylic paint.

My intention is to create a feeling similar to that which one feels when listening to an instrumental piece of music — the way the notes wash over one and leave an impression; the way the individual notes work together to make a whole; the vibrations created by the colors being similar to the vibrations created by the music.

The paintings are jazz-like in that they are totally improvisational and spontaneous. I try to simply be present and allow the colors to speak. The colors are randomly placed to create an organic whole without intentional patterning. The marks vary as to length and width from painting to painting as does the spacing (the silence between the notes.)

I am after a complex simplicity which I hope will engage the viewer, and give them some peace and joy.