

Transforming

The use of GRIDS allows Transforming a larger painting into many smaller images on one substrate. Each smaller work takes on different sets of elements. Each smaller image focuses on a combination of Line, Color, Value, Shape, Texture or Direction.

Before the grids are placed, my work focuses on Color, Shapes, and lines, not considering where the grids will be in the painting, providing an unexpected illusion for each grid allowing the transforming from explore into smaller areas to clarify. The last six paintings used a grid stencil to create the same pattern of grids.

The 24x30 panel has a haphazard layout of grids needed to focus on my favorite areas. In this painting I used Teal, a new color for my pallet.

My favorite is the 12x12 panel, one of my first attempts using collage material, using a self-leveling pouring medium, using my new orbital sander, taped circles to make grid and not so carefully removed to reveal grids. The unexpected tears, sanding errors, and collage material coming off all resulted in a wonderful final work of art.

The 15x20 canvas has oddball grids, each containing the name of one of my siblings and our parents. Still needs to be clarified.

The 15x20 canvas where an experiment started by putting different primary color on each canvas. Two canvases for each primary color. Started with acrylic and then with grid work, changed to oil and cold wax. A limited color pallet was used for drawing lines and shapes on these canvases. Did not like the high saturation of primary colors which overwhelmed the lines and shapes in the limited color pallet. Then decided to add grids to hide the high saturation and focus on the grid windows. As these were finished last week, will take time to sit in my rocking chair and study them.

The two which I disliked started with base of high saturation of Cadmium Red medium. Instead of having windows of grids, I decided to paint the grids solid, leaving the remainder of the painting. The painted grids were opaque (looked like headlights) and needed sanding back and lightened with Gamasol. The Cadmium Red was still too intense, so a glaze of Cobalt Blue painted over the Cadmium Red, resulting in the Cadmium red becoming subdued but the paintings became dark. Not happy with result, but will consider my next steps to move the paintings forward.

Sizes and medium of works:

24x30 – 1 ½ inch - cradled Ampersand encausticbord, Acrylic

12x12 – 1 inch - cradled Ampersand encausticbord, Collage, Acrylic, Pouring medium.

15x20 inch canvas, Acrylic

6 each - 11x14 inch canvas, Acrylic, Oil & Cold Wax

Robert Simmons