

Ribbon of Life Series - Artist Statement - Meg Gaddum - July 2023

This series is about experimenting with colour complements and playfulness but then tied together by transparent ribbons in a grid or in curves or both. I love the geometry that grids imply and the transparency I aim for complicates the colours underneath. The floating curving ribbons take the viewer across the painting noting the smaller features that lie alongside.

These are all oil and cold wax, some are over geli printed collage tissue papers which I initially struggled to find a use for after enjoying making them.

I love juxtapositioning complementary colours.

For example I love blue dominating colour accentuated by the contrasting pops of oranges, orangey reds and yellow of the boxes in an interrupted grid layout. Or green with the complement of reds doing the same. Or orange with blue features. Making sure warm and cool are not balanced.

With collage: to blur the boxes of collage I introduce painted shapes, mostly rectilinear, some curvaceous and then I overlay with transparent strips to complicate and desaturate the colours of the bright collage boxes. I have added overlays of transparent ribbon-like curves, choosing white or light grey or pale lavender (to activate/complement yellow) because I often feel my work gets dark and needs lights. The above is continuing my love of mark making in an expressive way as well as marks in inks and colours