

The 4 elements –Water, Wind, Fire and Earth

Please allow me to present my series on the 4 elements: water, wind, fire, and earth. I started this series in the autumn of 2022. It has morphed several times as I added layers till I was satisfied.

I kept a limited palette of 3 transparent colors – Quinacridone Magenta, Ultramarine Blue and Indian Yellow. I chose these colors for the various colours when mixed that pleased me. I also used Black and White, as well as some mediums to create different sheen and textures. I used mainly acrylics and experimented with some collage using tissue paper I had done mark making. I must admit I am intrigued but very shy using collage in mainly acrylic work, so there is very little.

I wanted to focus on shapes, mainly organic in my water and wind panels, and geometric mainly in the fire and earth panels. I also wanted to add both physical and visual texture, simply because I love texture. My only regret is adding the physical texture early on, since it didn't translate well with the added layers.

Water element: At first, I had a sewer, then had to stop myself from this depression, so I morphed it into a large turtle, some corals, fish, sea creatures and discarded fishnets on the bottom of the seaweed filled sea. I found too many gems, it overwhelmed me, so I covered the whole page with various waves using homemade stencils. Mainly high key, very little low key scattered. Plenty of texture especially on the discarded fish nets. I'd say the composition is a little bit grid and strata.

Wind element: Fan blades creating an artificial wind moving square and circle shapes of various quality around, the whole thing kept into some control with grills. I feel it has a rather high key quality mainly, followed by mid. Filled with fine patterns on border and bold physical texture that form the small particles. It's a radial composition.

Fire element: It is represented by a fictional new universe with imperfect circles (planets) of various size that came from an explosion in our current one. It is an online universe, represented by the black and transparent lines, like on a malfunctioning screen. I feel it is mainly low key followed by high, contrast that defines the conflict. Also, a radial composition.

Earth element, my favorite because of the rather quieter quality compared to the others in the series. Mainly mid key value followed with high key. Mostly triangles shape of various sizes prime the painting, but it is the mushroom shapes near the middle that bind it all. I see this being a Strata composition.