

Artist's Statement

These paintings were done over a six year period arriving at final form finally as acts of personal tikkun, a Hebrew word meaning the reparation of the broken vessels (referencing Jewish mystical ideas) or the restoration of holiness to things. The fundamental color of each plane is spiritually derived, emerging from a primal aesthetic palette.

The study of quilts and quiltmaking, and the making of my own beginning in 1991 powerfully affected and expanded my sense of color and presence. The study of quilts gave rise to ideas in painting - the notion of the repeated pattern - the equal-sized canvases and the magic of color planes juxtaposed. Each color emanates a quality, and those qualities together communicate something about passion and mystery. Imbedded in the layers of these canvases are facts, systems, diagrams, histories, mysticisms and geometries

The dots represent the notion of the Sefirot, which is a Jewish mystical idea that there are ten emanations or aspects of the divine which are reflected in the structure of the human universe. These Sefirot or emanations are in a very specific relationship in mystical literature. They are Keter (Crown), Chokhmah (Wisdom), Binah (Understanding), Gevurah (Strength), Chesed (Love), Tiferet (Beauty), Hod (Splendor), Netzach (Victory), Yesod (Foundation), and Malkhut (Kingdom). While I believe and honor this structure as both descriptive and directive, I also feel the necessity to reinterpret the form, color and arrangement to describe and honor in utter truth the relationship that I have with G-d. I must acknowledge my bodily experience every day while upholding the ageless law which is really a statement of the parameters of human being.

I am, essentially, a religious artist dedicated to the relationship between the divine and the earthbound, above and below, the noumenal and the phenomenal, the spirit and the body. These painted planes are made with love and in awe, and as tools or means to a kind of holy bond.

Cheselyn Amato
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