



ART *mag*
by SYBARIS.

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EDITOR'S *note*

There is an acclaimed rumor in the philosophical tradition that Plato's Academy door was engraved with the phrase "*let no one ignorant of geometry enter,*" as that was his tool to test the student's power of abstraction.

Ever since **GEOMETRY** remained as the crown jewel of the sciences, and it is still the same way in our days. This issue is an ode to what first inspired Euclid's: *symmetry, shapes, dimensions, planes, angles* and the reason why we selected Nate Ethier's majestic art pieces. Full of motion and optical effects with an astonishing expertise in the use of color, they test our *capacity to appreciate the abstract and to go far beyond the figure*. This is the first time his work will be presented to our Members, and we are glad to do so. I'm sure after enjoying his works of art we would be most welcome to enter the Academy, as well as our next private event.

We hope to meet you there,

Regina

Featured Artist

Nate Ether-Bold
Abstraction Artist

Balancing large and small images within the abstraction genre, Nate Ethier creates living works which leave viewers to contemplate his paintings.

Abstract artist Nate Ethier *brings an explosion of color into a room with his flashy geometric structures, demonstrating symmetry and control of space.* His combination of strong lines and soft brush strokes showcase a *complex humanity, exemplifying relationships with the varying patterns, depths, and colors within each work of abstraction.* Son of a carpenter, Ethier uses tools similarly to exhibit structure and visual changes within the work. The patterns he creates balance comfort with challenge, as he introduces new elements to the familiar grid.

Born in 1977 in Providence, his connection to coastal New England is exhibited in his translucent layers of colors, resembling the water and beaches of his native Rhode Island. Ethier studied Liberal Arts at Goddard College in Plainfield, VT and earned his Masters of Fine Arts in Painting from Boston University.

NATE

Ethier

URBAN EXPERIENCE BENEFICIAL TO ABSTRACTION



Ethier works in an urban atmosphere, and the chaos around him adds to his creation of calming patterns, removing him from the outside noise. He does spend time in the summer at a beach location to simply gather ideas and inspiration for new works. Ethier works often in layers, combining both *geometric and strong lines with layers of color, using glazing and transparent whitewash over the brush, bright colors underneath.* Viewers note that the smaller images found within his work at times give a feeling of competing influences, and shapes may appear to rival each other.

FORMALISM-ABSTRACTION COMBINATION

Abstraction and formalism—with bold colors, industrial tendencies combined with fine brush strokes to exemplify his unique vision. His patterns may lead some viewers to think “pop art”; however, Nate avoids that term, and his focus is more on the abstract aspect of his works. His patterns are painted individually, and the repetition is simply one part of the work and not the heart thereof. In some works, a few slivers of contrasting color or shape create a piece that is not just a predictable pattern, and shadowing and contrast within the pattern add interest to the viewer’s experience. *In fact, the combination of harsh geometric shapes and soft brushstrokes provide a visual machine, where viewers may see motion in the balance between the two.*

PHOTOGRAPHY AS INSPIRATION TO ABSTRACTION

EXHIBITIONS

Nate Ethier has a strong relationship and presence at the LMAK Gallery, located on the Lower East Side in New York. LMAK is committed to presenting works of all types, from paintings to sculpture, video to photography, showcasing interdisciplinary style from international artists. He has participated in the following exhibitions at LMAK:

- 2017 Vagary of Abstraction
- 2016 Papered Stories
- 2018 Wilderness, slated to open February 9, 2018

In addition, he has works included in the following exhibitions at the Nancy Margolis Gallery, located in the Chelsea art district, and an example of contemporary galleries focusing on both emerging and established artists who demonstrate unique vision:

- 2016 Small Works: More or Less
- 2016 Nate Ethier | Speak About the Ocean, his first solo exhibition

Other past exhibitions have been found in:

- Outpost Artists Resources, Ridgewood, NY
- Brian Morris Gallery & Buddy Warren Inc., New York, NY
- Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program Open Studios, DUMBO Brooklyn, NY
- Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
- Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York, NY
- NurtureART Benefit (invitational), The Boiler/Pierogi Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- SEABA Gallery, Burlington, VT
- All-over or Nothing, Parallel Art Space, London, England
- Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, New York, NY
- Bennington Arts Center, Bennington, VT
- H Gallery, Chiang Mai, Thailand

He is at times inspired by street photography, and photographs he has taken for Instagram which attract him to exhibit a specific structure or site he is drawn to, and uniquely urban in nature. *The utilization of numbers, and a numbered or patterned system, allows for scaling of his work in both small and large examples.* His works fit comfortably in a post-industrial culture.



ACCOLADES

- 2014-2015 Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program Award (formerly the Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program)
- 2013 Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant Nominee
- 2011 Vermont Studio Center Visual Artist Grant



WORKS

Ethier's works, both in large and small scale, prove that *geometric shapes and soft strokes of the brush combine to provide images which lead the viewer to imagine a different story*, not only at each passing glance, but as the eyes look for details and the overall view of the whole work.

Editor's pick



"Float like you mean it"
by **Nate Ethier**



FORMALISM *in art*

The formalism theory in art focuses on the artist's skill to perfect technique in works without consideration for context, boosting support of abstract art.



FORMALISM THEORY

The formalistic approach directs that art be analyzed by reviewing form and style.

Elements like color, shapes, textures, and line are emphasized, while the context of the work is de-emphasized, and made a secondary characteristic at times taken completely out of consequence.

The assessment of a piece of artwork is based purely on the artist's skill and not on the choice of subject matter, with *the value based primarily on the use of elements* with little regard for the viewer's perception of the context.

Much of the basis of formalism as an evaluation theory is founded on *Plato's Theory of Forms*, developed on the idea that everything, whether tangible or not, has a form. Modeled after his "Allegory of the Cave," in which characters viewed shadows as the reality instead of as outlines or doubles of the true forms. *Plato explained that those WERE the forms in their perception.*

The growth of expressionistic, and later, surrealistic art, in the early 20th century, supported the line of thinking which indicated that *a skilled artist could prove his or her artistic abilities in color, medium, and the combinations found in the work (namely, paintings) beyond whatever the subject matter was.*

This term truly epitomizes the formalist way of thinking, and Abstract artists defended their work, maintaining that they should be judged and valued based on their basic attributes. They asserted that, following the ideals of formalism, *art should be valued outside of its' ability to tell a story, recall an experience, provide a statement, or inspire feelings in the viewer.* This allows for growth in Abstract art creation, where *artists no longer felt the pressure to explain their works based on any set standards or sensibilities.*

L'art
Pour
L'art
(Art for
Art's
Sake)





Clement Greenberg

Staunch Advocate of Formalism

One of the most well-known proponents of formalism in more modern times was American writer Clement Greenberg, supporter of Abstract Expressionism. He believed fully in the detachment of context and subject matter from the form of art, and disallowed the idea that there were other considerations (i.e., popular culture, political sentiment, or media influence). *He firmly believed that Abstract Art was the truest expression of art, as the observer would not understand the subject matter of the art itself, and only the artist's true use of color, medium, and space showed through.*

Jackson Pollock

Abstract Expressionist

One artist who personified the theory of Formalism was Jackson Pollock, a popular Abstract Expressionist artist during the 1940's. His famous work, *Convergence* (1952), exemplified the avant-garde and radical artwork of the time, where artists created freely, outside of established guidelines and emphases. His unusual methods, oversized canvases and use of non-traditional materials (using knives and sticks in place of brushes), *was welcomed in a growing taste for abstract art.*

Formalism in other Arts

Formalism was not confined to evaluating art; it was also used liberally in both music and literature. In music, the theory was used to explain that music is judged based on the basic composition of the notes, and only intellectual understanding is of value when assessing musical pieces. The listener's emotional reaction provides no additional value to the music's worth. In literature, formalist view was more scientific (and perhaps, logical) in nature, putting emphasis on how writing could express language, and discounted how a reader would react to the subject of the writing. Further, a piece of literature would prove successful no matter the cultural context; it would stand the test of time in a changing world.

Post-Formalism Today

Much of the western world was riveted with the Vietnam War, and everywhere was evidence of the freedom American youth had to express their political and moral beliefs. *This new era, along with the growth of commercialism, created a renewed interest in context, and the desire to share beliefs through artistic expression.*

Artists like Andy Warhol, who embraced the idea of context as a deciding factor in critiquing (and appraising) art. Abstract Expressionism did not die, nor did the theory of formalism. However, context and subject matter in art experienced a revival and today we find a balance of art types and theories woven throughout the art market.

Featured Artist



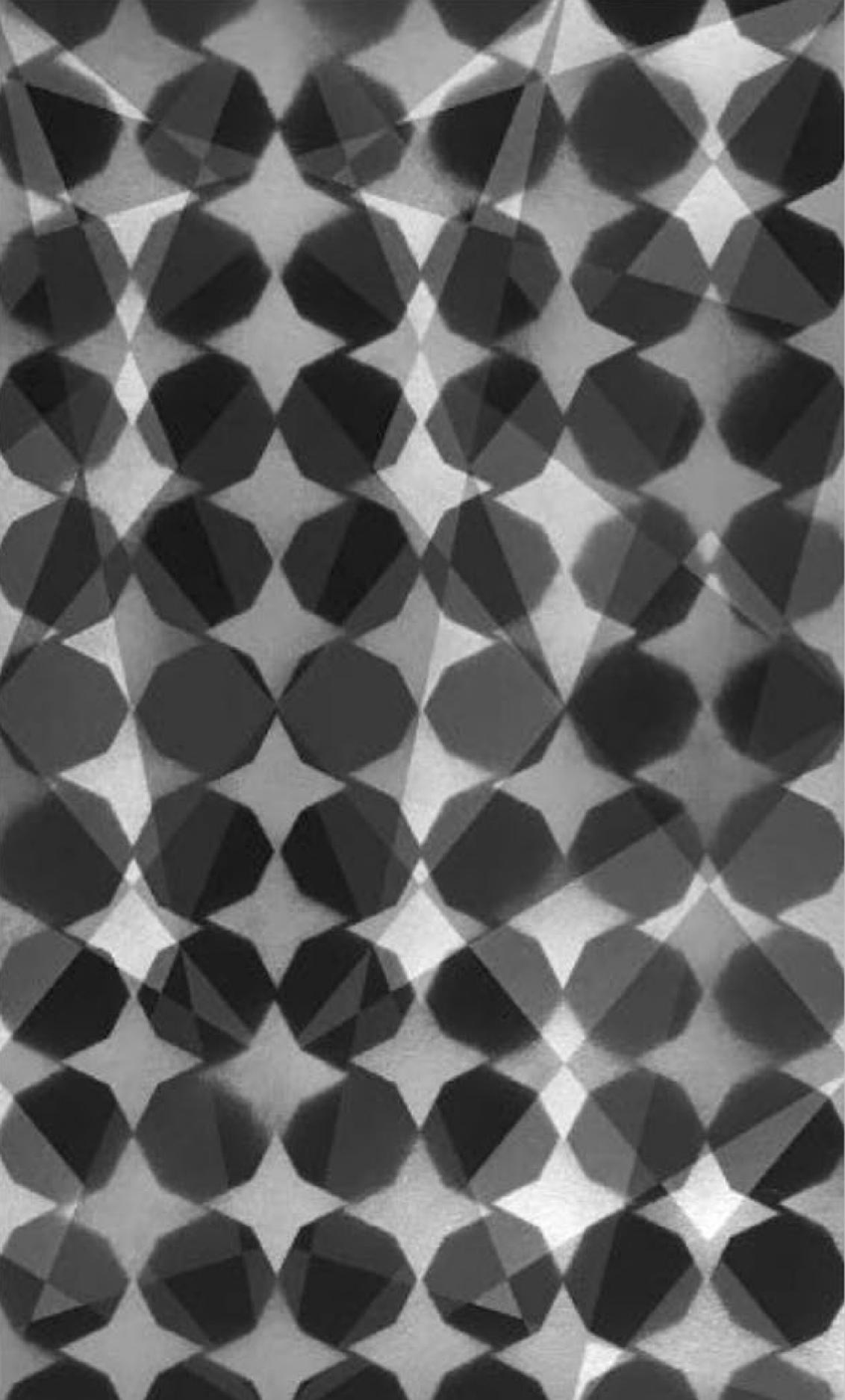
Isauero Huizar (Mexico, 1985) lives and works in Mexico City *focusing on contemporary art*. Works with different media and also *performs site-specific work, rather than creating new objects, reorders and re contextualises what already exists*.

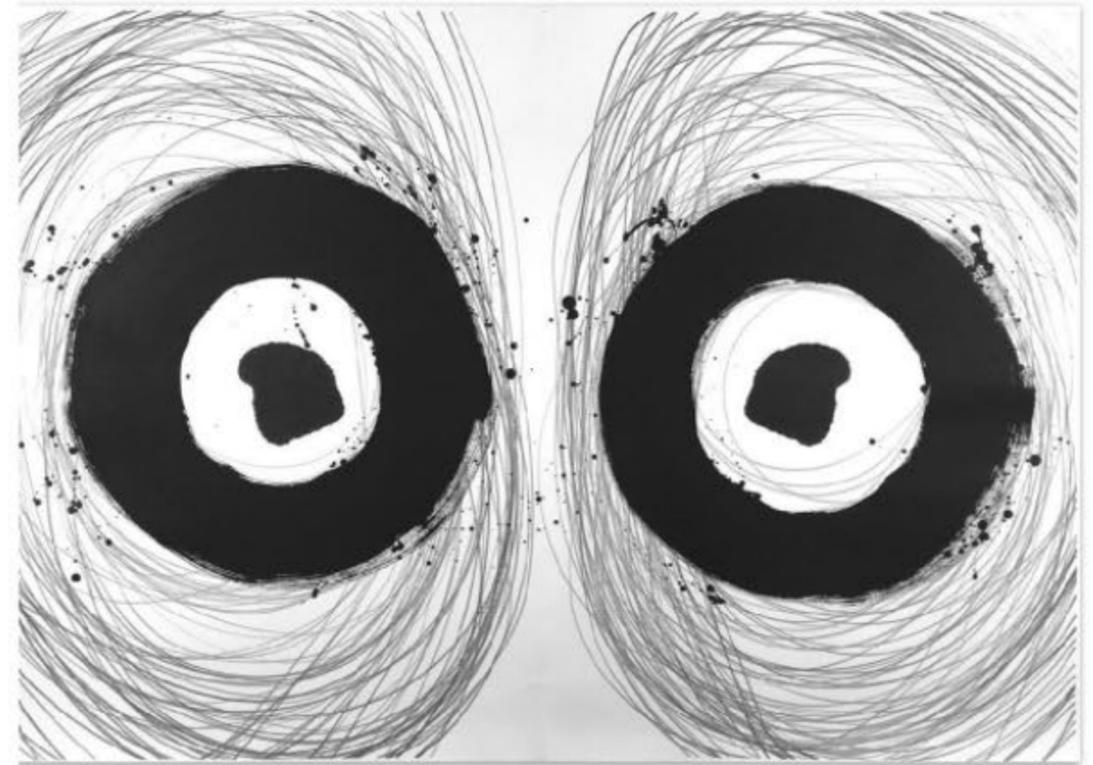
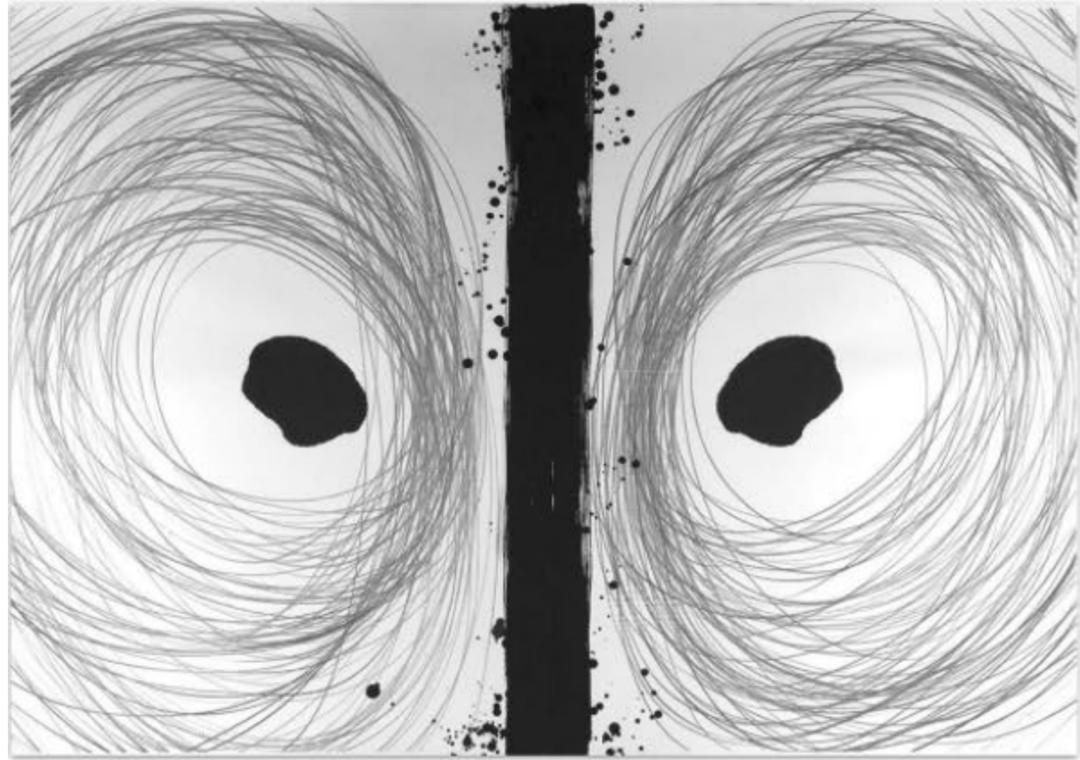
He has an Architecture degree by Universidad de Monterrey – CRGS, Urban Planning studies at Politecnico di Torino and recently finish the SOMA Academic Program focus in contemporary art.

His work has been shown in the Mexico's National Arts Centre, Franz Mayer Museum, Festival Nrmal, Nuevo Leon Art Centre, Querétaro City Museum, Jardín Botánico Culiacán and Celaya Brothers Gallery, and has been featured in Domus Mexico, BOB International Magazine of Space Design, AAF, The Atlas of Street Art and Graffiti, Nuevo Mundo: Latin American Street Art, La Folk, Frente and Folio.

He has won some awards by INSIDE Festival, Quorum and ITESM Luis Barragán. And some of the important clients he has worked with are Camel, Cervecería Cuauhtémoc Moctezuma, Comex, El Palacio de Hierro and Whirlpool.

ISAURO *Huizar*

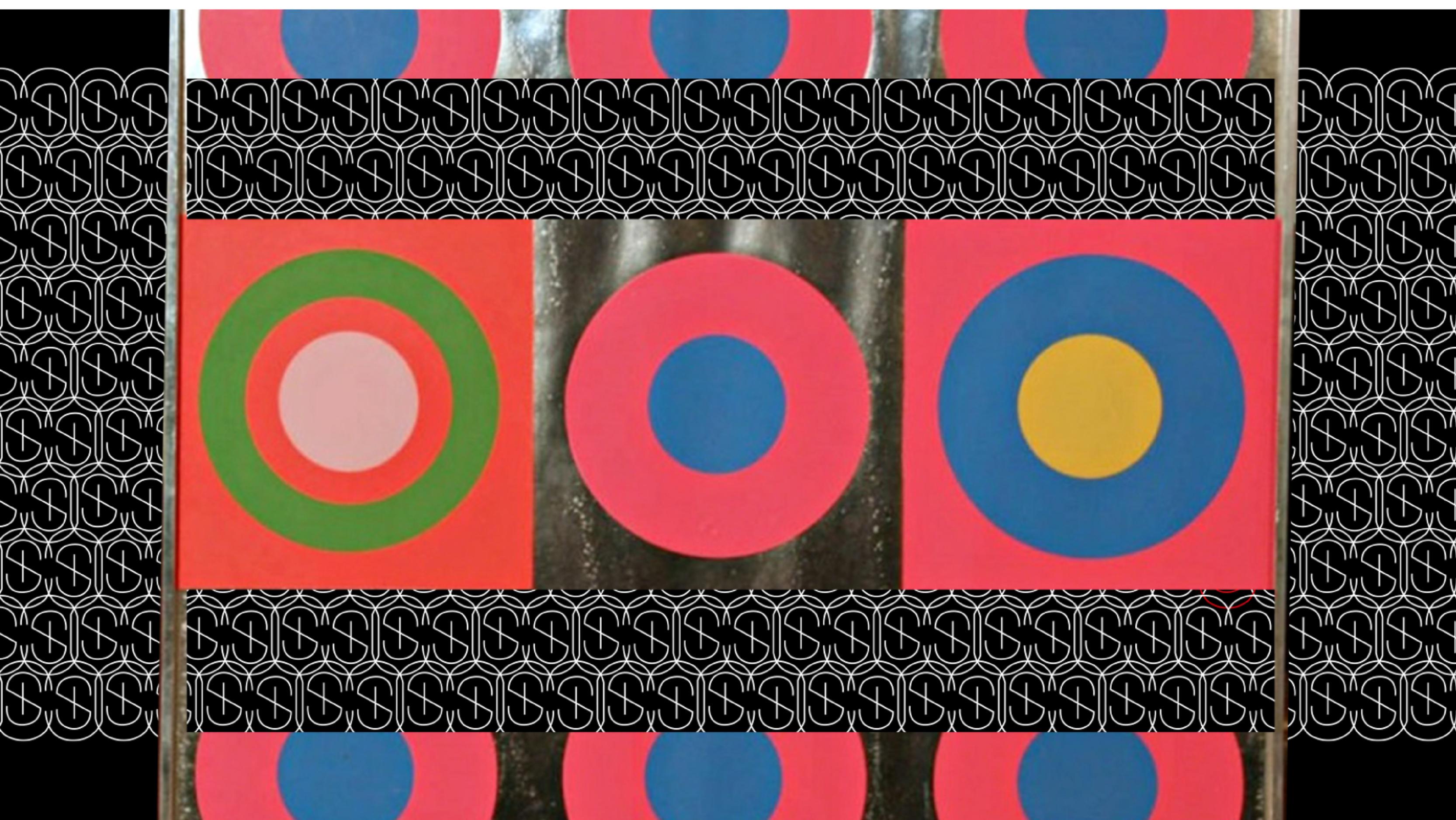




Although abstract art may be difficult to understand to the average viewer, it is not so difficult to define. Best explained as a type of art which makes no attempt to recreate a recognizable object, *abstract art demands the viewer decide for himself/herself what the work is expressing.*

Abstract art is considered an "intellectual" art, providing viewers with inspiration without explanation. Geometric abstraction begins with the same ideology, focusing more earnestly on the two-dimension existence of painting. **The use of geometric shapes pushes the sense of not conforming to realism, a familiar method of art which any viewer can related to.** Used for hundreds of years almost exclusively in Islamic art due to the prohibition of portraying religious figures, it seemed revolutionary and even bizarre to the art world in the early 1900's. Today, it is now a staple in many modern art collections. Let's delve into a little detail about geometric abstraction.

GEOMETRIC ABSTRACTION





Geometric Abstraction Born in Cubism

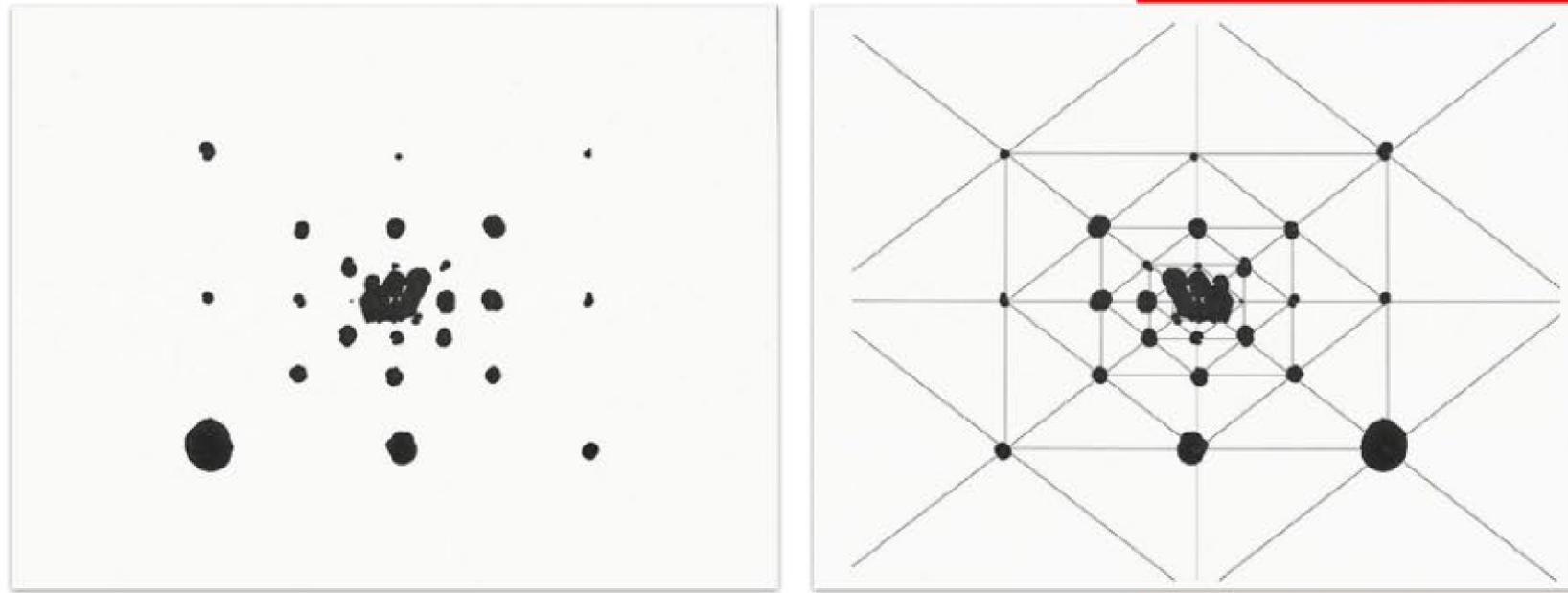
Cubism, fathered by artistic greats such as Pablo Picasso, began in some way as a reaction to the introduction of photography (depicting realistic experiences) and as a movement which rejected the more accepted, realistic art of the early 1900's, in an art culture which directed artists to find something to recreate, perhaps stifling daring creativity. *The deconstruction of accepted visuals with flat shaped, straight lines and grids, was a vast change, and further led to the exploration of new forms and materials, including sculpture and architecture.*

The Geometric Abstract Movement

Piet Mondrian, one of a group of Dutch artists who named their movement "De Stijl", or "The Style", *looked to convey his feelings in art by simplifying the artistic expression, rather than recreating a reality which showed only life after a world war.* Defining reality in terms of relationships and intangible forms rather than realistic shapes, artists laid claim to the term "Neoplasticism" (and oddly, not Geometric Abstraction) to describe the lack of concrete, firm sense of objects. In 1920, Mondrian published his manifesto "Le Neoplasticisme", and spent years focusing on his straight lines and blocks of primary colors, trademarks of his geometric abstract style.

Geometric Abstraction appears Everywhere

This shift in artistic style was beginning to appear throughout Europe, including in Russia, where the end of the Russian Revolution opened the door for new creative minds to appear. Kazimir Malevich's designs centered on forms appeared on white space, in a style he dubbed "*Suprematism*," showcasing a reality he called the "*fourth dimension*." Other artists of the time discovered their own paths to abstract art, including somewhat similar styles like *Art Deco in textiles and "Constructivism"*, which later embraced the teachings of *Bauhaus*, an organized institution governing all things artistic.

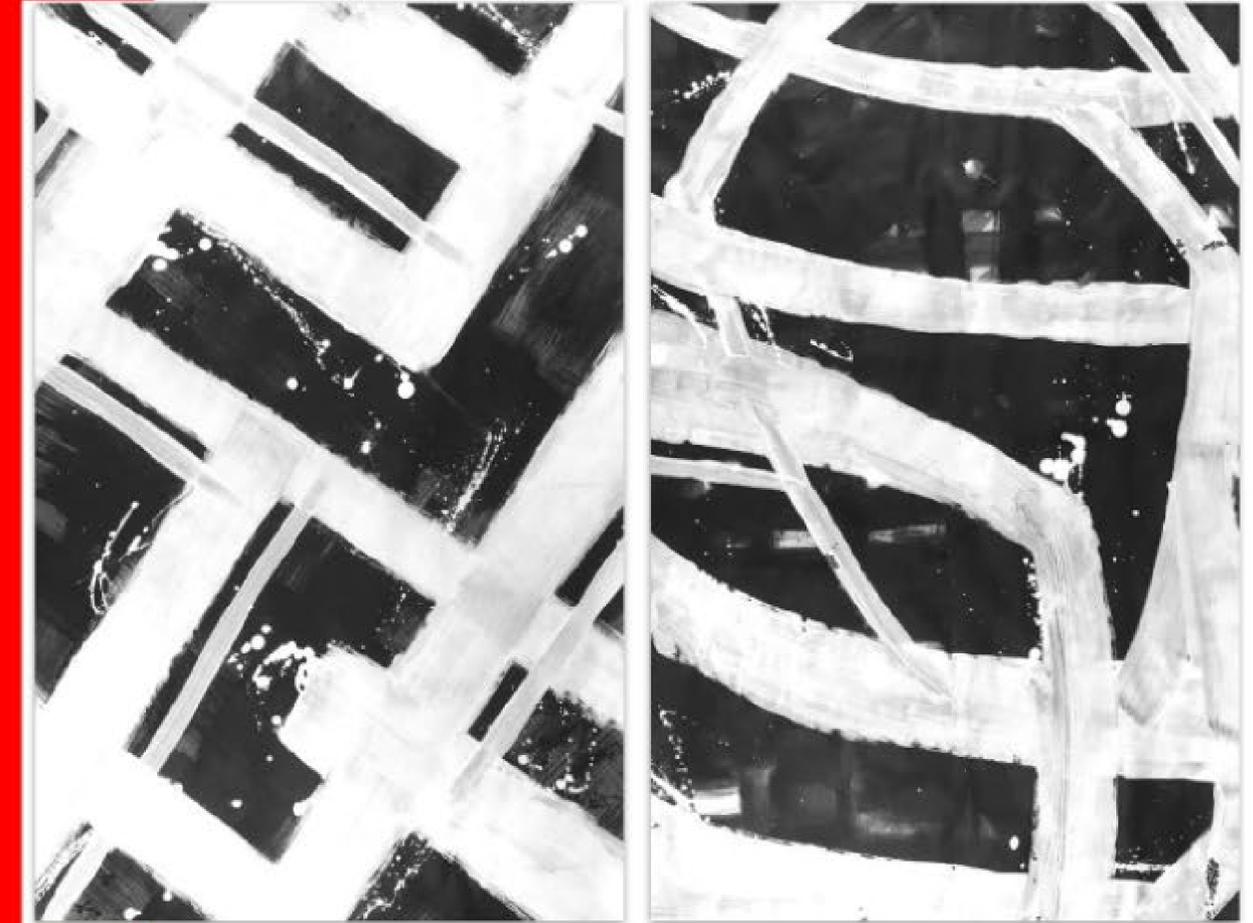


Geometric Abstraction Artists and Works

Mondrian is considered the grandfather of geometric abstraction, and works like his "Composition with Yellow, Black, Blue, Red and Gray, 1921" exemplify the now infamous use of primary colors and grids, hallmarks of this type of art. *Josef Albers* conveyed his own take on geometric abstraction, asserting that color (rather than shapes) are the heart and language of artistic expression. In addition to Mondrian's "Composition" work above, *Wassily Kandinsky's* famous "On White II" is regarded by many as an outstanding example of a grand use of color. *Nadir Afonso*, Portuguese artist, created several geometric abstract works, including *Espacillimité 1954*, and never veered from his geometric style of abstraction.

Geometric Abstraction in Recent Times

As abstract art grew, so did public locations where it was displayed. Both MOMA (Museum of Modern Art) in and the Guggenheim, both in New York City, welcomed geometric abstraction as one of many forms of abstract art. However, artistic styles changed and it had basically completed its creative lifecycle. Although found in small numbers throughout the art world, *geometric abstraction is just one step in the development of abstract art*.

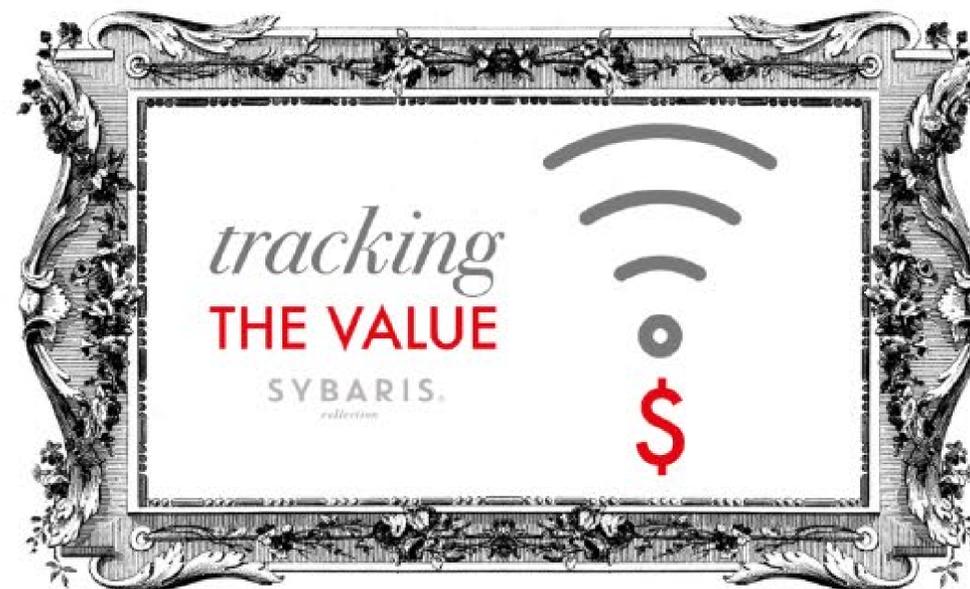




OUR SERVICES



Part of what makes Sybaris special is our dedication *to finding the perfect piece to fit your taste and complement your collection.* Art collectors, like artists, come in a plethora of style and budgets. *We have an eye for art work for all prices and projects.*



We analyze the returned value in the real world of art pricing information. *How the value of your piece of art will increase during the years.*



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ART *call* 01



SPEAK - "10 things to avoid when you buy art"

Cocktails *by* RON ACONTE

ART SALE

(Geometric Motion Collection)



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info@sybariscollection

regina@sybariscollection

Tels.

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+52 1 (55) 8435 4487

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