

Colour and Mind

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'Colour and Mind' starts with this exhibition but for me it will be an ongoing project. I have been studying colours for the last twenty years – colours as material and colours as sensation and perception. I have studied it through art history, in the environment and through science. The evolution in the perception of colour has been my subject. That is why I undertook a specific study for this exhibition. I travelled to see the stained glass in the York Minster and the Byzantine frescoes in some churches on Crete. I chose these two objects of study because they were created by people who shared the same belief during the same time period, 13th and 14th Century, but who used different materials in different environments. This short investigation has inspired the large pieces I have painted for this exhibition.

Colours have three characteristics: hue, brightness and saturation. We see them in art as lines and forms in paintings. But in all cultures and civilizations colours have also always been associated with meanings, beliefs, traditions etc. That is why I consider colour a language. We see the same light, which produces the same primary and secondary colours all over the world, but the nuances differ depending on the specific environment. This is well reflected and documented in artistic production all over the world.

Nowadays colours are much more a part of our visual experience than during any earlier period. It comes to us through TV, the Internet, magazines and so on and has become a regular part of our environment. Scientists say that our eyes can separate 1 million nuances of colours. In contrast, one single computer can produce more than 17 million nuances. It is very hard to ignore the role science plays in our perception of colour. Artists see light or 'feel' it with their eyes, and try to paint it. But it is impossible for the artist, who works with pigments, to reproduce what they are able to perceive. Just like language can never express exactly what we mean, the artist struggles to express meanings, feelings etc. through colour. In this exhibition, I have tried to speak through colours. The motif of the paintings is of less importance than the colours themselves.

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