

Daniel Pailes-Friedman  
2011

I approach painting as a personal journey. For me, the act of painting takes on a meditative quality, though not necessarily blissful. At times, it is more of a trial and error, or a tug of war process. My work is abstract and non-representational. Color and geometric forms drive the compositions. I often work on more than one piece at a time so I can absorb the changes I've made and more clearly see the direction of the piece. The act of creating a composition is what drives my process.

When approaching a blank canvas, a certain color palette inspires me. Every painting starts with just a few specific colors and I establish a few simple shapes. This language is the foundation for the balance of the process that yields a complex composition. I do not have a vision of the completed piece; I let it evolve as I work. I am as much of an observer as the director.

Color is an essential element. I build up multiple layers of thinly applied paint to create a luminosity, which interweaves into a space that is at times transparent and at others opaque. The brushwork is subtle and the transitions are gradual. The color will just as often pop out as it will be still or recede. I am inspired by the ability color has to communicate emotion, mood, depth and movement. I am attracted to colors that are both earthy and vibrant. Together they create a familiar but dynamic combination that defines my work.

In my recent work I have been creating a series that explores multiple circle-like shapes. Circles have engaged me for a long time. Earlier, they were incorporated into grid like structures on the canvas. Now I have been exploring compositions that focus on the circles themselves and bring the viewer into the piece. I want to keep the eye moving around the surface, in an exploration and discovery. There is simultaneously calmness and a quiet mystery in the work.

