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DANIEL SCHÄR

RHYTHMIC COMBINATION OF PAINTING AND MUSIC BY DANIEL SCHÄR

WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTO ART AND MUSIC AND HOW WAS THE BEGINNING?

As a small boy, I discovered music in the seventies and already developed a great affinity for current rock music and also for the piano music of Frédéric Chopin. I passionately played guitar, and piano and also sang in a classical choir.

The combination of my painting and music came about in 1991. At the time, I was working in a disused factory that produced paper and cardboard. The high and bright rooms in this studio were very inspiring. In my record collection, I discovered three LPs with recordings of the cantata music of Johann Sebastian Bach. The music and the lyrics touched me very much, and I listened exclusively to this music for several months and painted it.

Now that I knew the pieces of music inside out, I asked myself if there would be more of these cantata pieces. It was precisely at this time that a music publisher published all

the 200 existing cantata pieces in a CD collection. So the new publications were sent to me at regular intervals and I decided to paint an acrylic painting in the format of 70x70cm to match each cantata.

I let each cantata play until I was satisfied with the design of the picture and harmonizing with the music. I completed the last cantatas in 2001, after 10 years. Parallel to this music, I was also inspired by the music of the Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt. Arvo Pärt is a contemporary, classical composer and currently lives in Berlin. In the following years, I continued to be inspired by music and turned more and more to jazz.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS WITH MUSIC AND YOUR COLOR KITCHEN.

Over the years, I have bought color pigments all over the world and kept them in my studio for a long time. Since 2019 I have been busy using up these pigments. Since the large-scale picture project entitled

«unterwegs», a large part of my works have been created with the help of these color pigments. Every day I stir together the currently desired colors of pigments with the right acrylic binder and when listening to music I let myself be inspired by these sounds to my color compositions.

In the flow of this inspiring music, I intuitively grasped the dynamics and atmosphere and designed the various painting surfaces (mostly canvases, wooden boards, and handmade paper).

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC TO PAINT AND WHICH MUSICIANS INSPIRE YOU THE MOST?

Statistically speaking, the music of Johann Sebastian Bach has inspired me to create the largest number of paintings to date. I must have painted more than 250 works to his music. Among other things, in addition to the 200 cantata paintings, paintings of the 32 Goldberg Variations and the 12 chorales of the St. Matthew Passion were also

Il font les ils
Bartélémy
Oil on Canvas
150 x 150 cm



On green Dolphin Street
Miles Davis
Oil on Canvas
70 x 90 cm



Blues on the Corner
McCoy Tyner
Oil on Canvas
140 x 94 cm



My Favorite Things
John Coltrane
Acrylic on Canvas
200 x 170 cm



created. Over the past three years, I've been most inspired by the music of Chicago saxophone player Chico Freeman.

I often work in phases or cyclically and in a series of paintings. The music has to appeal to me, touch me inwardly, and reach me. I always have to find out which music guides and moves me best and when is the right time. In corresponding phases, in addition to classical and jazz music, rock, blues, and pop music also drove me forward and inspired me into the appropriate mode.

Yes, if the music can't inspire me, it remains painterly quiet and I prefer to work in silence and on other topics.

COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THE EXHIBITION YOU CREATED INTERACTING WITH NATURE "PICTURES BY THE WAYSIDE"

Prehistory

It should be a handful of larger pictures. I had been carrying the idea around with me for a long time. The leg length of each picture should be 200 cm. The other leg would vary between 100 to 170 cm in length. After the start, I got into an extraordinary flow of painting

After three months, I already had a considerable number of new works together, so I decided to publish a catalog with the title "On the Road". It should be possible to interpret this for two exhibition projects.

But it didn't come to that. Although the catalog was printed in February 2020, the lockdown and the Corona pandemic abruptly put an end to the exhibition projects. However, the creative thrust continued and the "handful" of pictures eventually became over 120 works, all with a leg length of 200cm.

Nature Impressions

During the Corona months in spring 2020, I walked a lot. On almost daily walks together with my wife, we explored the events in nature and landscape in shorter and longer routes. We listened to the unknown bird calls, watched the blossoming of the flowers, enjoyed the silence, discussed God and the world, and watched with fascination the growth and beauty of the fruit fields. On the way to the neighboring villages and back into the studio. There, the impressions and thoughts found a pictorial expression.

There were no exhibition opportunities during this time, visits to the studio were only possible to a very limited extent.

The idea

During the many walks, the idea matured to show the exhibits in the great outdoors. Why not where the impressions and thoughts for these pictures on the road were taken? An open-air exhibition where people can walk outside in the countryside to the works and discover them. At the end of the tour, a visit to the studio where the pictures were painted.

Implementation

After these considerations, the project quickly became concrete. All ten landowners spontaneously and willingly permitted me to use the grassy areas along the way. The project "Pictures set up by the wayside" could therefore be implemented.

The plan was to set up the stations on Good Friday and open the tour with 69 stations and 120 pictures to the public on Easter Saturday 2021.

There was a large parade of our children and their partners and a few friends and

Warm up to livemusic
Chico Freemann and Heiri Kaenzig
Acrylic on Canvas
55 x 50 cm



unfinished 1
Chico Freemann live playing
Oil on Canvas
200 x 160 cm



the stations were set up in glorious sunshine with a lot of eagerness, commitment, and enthusiasm.

My poet friends Peter Behncke, Albrecht Gralle, and Mathias Jeschke spontaneously agreed to write or provide texts for the individual pictures. The poems were published on my website and could be accessed via QR codes with a smartphone.

Many visitors were enthusiastic and touched by this extraordinary display and installation of the paintings in the great outdoors.

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRANSMIT WITH YOUR ARTWORK?

When I was about seventeen years old, I leafed through an art book with pictures from the Cubist period. These reproductions with paintings by Cézanne, Picasso, and Braque touched, fascinated, and gripped me deeply. These color tones and compositions left such an impression that I was sure of myself: I wanted to be a painter.

Expressing the unspeakable with colors and shapes, tracking down hunches and secrets, and being able to depict life force, and joy,

have taken hold of me so deeply that even after more than 40 years, I continue to research and paint incessantly and with undiminished enthusiasm on this secret of where from and whither. Power, dynamism, movement, the interplay of light and dark, joy and sorrow, and the tension between pain and hope are the recurring “vibes” in my works.

As I get older, I experience how everything in our lives is given to us – I would like to pass this on in a painterly way.

DESCRIBE TO US HOW YOU MET SAXOPHONE PLAYER CHICO FREEMAN.

One of my friends accompanied Chico Freeman several times at his concerts and documented him photographically. He told me about his enthusiasm for Chico’s music and gave me his latest CD « Arrival ».

Since the music appealed to me very much, I immediately began to paint large-format pictures for it. A few weeks later, this friend, together with Chico Freeman, visited me in my studio and we immediately got into a very lively and inspiring exchange. Chico

liked these pictures and I asked him if he would be interested in an exhibition to play the corresponding music live in front of these exhibited paintings.

He immediately asked his bass player Heiri Känzig if he could take time off for this event. But unfortunately, it didn’t come to that. The lockdown and the Corona pandemic abruptly ruined all planned exhibition projects.

WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT PROJECTS?

Since June of this year, Chico and I have been in a lively exchange and working in my studio. He improvises on his musical instruments and I paint live. These sessions and conversations will be audio-visually recorded. And now we are in the process of finding suitable places to bring this project, with the working title « unfinished », live in front of the audience – live music and live painting.

Klaviersonate A-Dur 859
Franz Schubert
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 135 cm



Choral Matthäuspassion
Oil on Canvas
200 x 120 cm



Rhiannon
Fleetwood Mac
Oil on Canvas
200 x 100 cm

