

SCATTERING THE CONSTANT

by Clare Gemima

There is not a single person on this planet that speaks, intonates, or interprets words or languages in the exact same way as the next. Even in smaller communities on the fringes of society that communicate in archaic dialects seem to utter from a different chord. In *Scattering the Constant*, synchronicities between random numeric variations and the traditional color wheel aid to envision Brianna Bass's own dialect, accounting for over ten new formulaically painted, chromo-maniacal, and indeterminate equations.

Muted and interchanging greens and purples on the upper and lower sections of *Time Ruffle's*, (2023), composition vitalize in classic rainbow shades by the time they meet in the center. Defined as the measure of disorder or randomness, or more broadly as a system to distinguish future from past, Bass has chosen to respond to a concept known as entropy by color blocking a pattern that frantically embodies the inexorable principle of time, and (more soberly), life itself. *Twilight Particle Emergence*, (2023), immerses us in a moment inspired by the cosmic Big Bang theory where the universe expanded and cooled while retaining its primal density. Through deft use of color mixing and matching, Bass paints an insanely sporadic pattern that draws us into a major epochal collision. True to her kaleidoscopic signature style, Bass's translation could quite easily illustrate a resounding sound wave from two large crash cymbals forcefully chiming. Through colorizing dissolutions of order and chaos, many of the works in *Scattering the Constant* compel viewers to extrapolate their own micro or macro perceptions of duration, limitlessness, and irreversibility.

In a more disseminated composition, *Cosmological Redshift's* evolving shades of red scatter and bounce psychedelically across the canvas in reference to the work's eponymous praxis. In astronomical terms, 'redshift' is a phenomena that occurs from light waves stretching as the universe expands. During this process, light emitted by galactic particles is stretched, and readings reflect rosy, pinkish shifts as the Universe expands. This work in particular beckons viewers to a confluence of art, in this case the color red's colossal caché amongst her peers on the wheel, with the eccentricity of science, where in which red proves to harmoniously exist in outer space. Other works such as *Chromanumeric Dissolve*, *The Bond is A Spring*, *Quasicrystal*, and *Palinopsia* (all 2023), similarly encourage viewers to partake in their own existential-minus- intellectual-plus-emotional-ponder.

Bass exposes viewers to realms of information and ideas beyond terrestrial boundaries entirely outside of her and Earth's own reach. Agnes Martin and her unwavering dedication to observing the infinitesimal distinctions in existence, as well as a marriage with minimalism, resonate deeply within Bass's methodical paintings. "Look between the rain, the drops are insular; everything is in the interval," Martin's contemplative quote of life's minutiae, echoes Bass's own hyperopic nature to paint inside, but most definitely outside the lines. Martin's profound assertion that "the idea of infinity itself presupposes an incomplete subject, and the work of repetition is the impossibility of completion" lends to the image of Bass physically crafting *Scattering the Constant* in her idyllic Connecticut studio, deep into the night and day. In this shared odyssey with Martin, Bass has skillfully melded precisional techniques to inventively translate life's subtleties and hidden intricacies.

Scattering the Constant triumphantly explores infinite realms, celebrating the convergence of math, art, and cosmology. In her latest body of work, Bass employs rulers and numbers with unwavering precision, inviting us to grapple with the universe's unsolvables. Her palette defies human imagination, bending the color wheel's limits into painted indices scattered throughout Latchkey gallery. With its tessellated squares, cell clusters, and delicate and blubbery oil strokes, this exhibition visually embodies abstract theories and cosmological concepts. It not only celebrates the rich tapestry of human experience literally and metaphorically, but also defies convention, and embraces the infinite power of not always having an answer.