

BROAD SPECTRUM

ARTIST STATEMENT

Nathan Beard
Highlands Museum of the Arts
January 23 – April 21, 2017

Exit music is played at the end of a performance or movie while the audience is departing, signaling both the end of the imaginary world they were privy to and their sobering reemergence into daily life. Nathan was drawn to this as a metaphor for transition and the complicated feelings that the “end” conjures.

Materially, Nathan uses masking tape as a dry resist and it serves as a metaphor for conscious deliberation or will. The serpentine gesture is meant to evoke the march of time and infinity, and is a visual metaphor for the energies at work forming and reforming all we see and experience. As a whole, Nathan’s paintings are personal meditations upon interconnectedness, the power derived through transformation and the nature of consciousness.

For the last two and one half years, Nathan has been developing the Exit Music series and *BROAD SPECTRUM* is intended to showcase the evolution of technique and concept over that time period. The series began with *Exit Music #6 (Gignesthai)* while wiping away mistakes made during experimentation with rubbing alcohol. He then modified his approach by adding dimension to the serpentine gesture and overlaying them to form wheel-like shapes, implying wholeness. His most recent work (*Exit Music #47 - #54*) was inspired by our dependence upon the concept of cause and effect to simplify an incredibly complex universe, predict the future and to build meaning in the face of nature’s “chaotic” ambivalence. Using shaped panels and imagery that reference the human body to trace the decision making process, the paintings are meditations upon the potential congruity between human agency, biological and terrestrial processes, and cosmological forces.

Nathan was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Colorado State University in 2001 and then worked in galleries and as an Art Consultant in Denver, CO for seven years. He grew up on a dairy farm in western New York. Prior to his university studies, Nathan lived in Egypt for one year as an exchange student and, upon his return, worked as a cowboy in Wyoming for two years. Nathan maintains a studio in St. Petersburg, FL where he lives with his wife and daughter. His work is represented by ARTicles Art Gallery and Custom Framing (St. Petersburg, FL).