



WALKER FINE ART

BRYAN LEISTER | Artist Statement

Elements

This series represents a return to my past in some ways, while also exploring new ways of looking at and experiencing art. Most of my recent work has been in the form of digital and interactive experiences that evoke feelings of calm and meditation. For this series, I wanted to focus on something that calms me personally and that is simply painting a still life. Unlike portraiture or commissions, still life painting for me is focused on the act of capturing light as it strikes an object. Air, light, surface, color, contrast and tone are what I concentrated on as I worked on these paintings of wrinkled and folded paper. By limiting my subject to mundane materials, I am trying to create what Kant referred to as a 'disinterested' state, so that the viewer focuses on the light and not the subject matter.

For the digital experience, I wanted to concentrate on the other senses, touch and sound. As you point your device at the paintings, mathematically derived shapes appear and are attached to synthesized sound. Touching the shapes changes the sequence and alters the soundscape. The program is structured around simple geometric shapes, with sounds placed at various intervals along the shape. When struck, the shape emits a tone based on a variety of pentatonic scales. Similar to the painting, I have tried to focus on the fundamentals of rhythm and tone, to keep the experience a calm and meditative one.

I find the mathematics behind programming shapes and sound to be as fascinating and enjoyable as observing how light wraps around objects lit from a north window. I hope that this work will create a space for people to contemplate, perceive and hear that is similar to what I experience while working in my studio.