

Nicholas Szymanski's paintings are composed of oil paint on various weights of canvas and linen, often stretched over wooden panels. The compositions oscillate between one to four colors carefully applied over the surface. He often uses tape to create sharp divisions between colors which emphasizes the minutia of the paintings and their processes. Such subtleties as slippages in paint, evidence of editing, and textural attributes bring humanity to the forefront of what appears to be rigid. Successive layers of accumulation build toward unity and resolution in the picture plane, complicating the material and perceptual attributes of the paintings.

Szymanski's work provides a variegated approach to painting. The paintings are both additive and subtractive, often referencing found forms and colors, photography, and memories as starting points. Through a mixture of systematic and aleatory processes, the pictorial elements of the work have the quality of being meditations on chromatic phenomena, the passage of time, presence, and the exterior. The question of how one may work within an area of art using the same restrictions stated and explored in the past is an undercurrent of the paintings. Within these limitations, can the conversation be advanced and the work assuaged from its past?

While maintaining avoidance of direct narrative, the compositions investigate conceptual elements. The foundation of his interest, discipline, and praxis in painting is the idea of Purposelessness. Szymanski views this as an experiential attitude arrived at through the process of making and viewing his work. The paintings are slowly developed over a duration of time without a distinct end goal. Through this approach, the work becomes self-informed, intuitive, and perceptual. The subject of the paintings is a quiet and experiential engagement. This may be likened to the concept of *Aware*, the pathos of things, a Japanese idea in which a viewer is aware of the ephemeral beauty of a world essentially marked by change and an aversion to definition.