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Zane Lewis

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ALTERED STATES:

Likened to the minimalist artist Dan Flavin or James Turrell, who perceivably "paint" a space with colored-light as an active entity, Zane's works convey similar phenomenology with real paint (on canvas). Frequently, there appears to be a source of illumination within the paintings or a celestial effect seemingly engulfing the viewer. A relationship to space is formed when the audience moves about the room and the surfaces of the paintings shift or fluctuate in color palette. What was soft and ethereal from a far becomes hard and physical up-close. Perceptually what appeared minimalistic in tonality at a distance, in fact, under closer inspection, it is evident that the composition contains a multitude of various colors resonating as an overall field.

Confronted directly, a stimulating of the eye occurs and a kind of a 3Dimensionality-effect plays out. Once aware of this duality the viewer is contextualized as a participant of the experience. Such sensation is most closely related to an *Autostereogram* effect in which the colors take on a float-like appearance. (Or, if you could imagine zooming into an iphone screen until the pixels appear, then zooming-in further until the pixels surround you infinitely).

The use of color and application in one painting may compose a soft delicateness, a feeling of *warmth*, in a cinematic way expansive and inviting. While in a different work, an enigmatic abyss-like chasm sensation may leave a feeling of emptiness. In both, a sense that the painting is bigger (or deeper) than the canvas itself exists. In this state of the perception, the colors feel alive and activated, strangely kinetic.

"Visuals from psychedelic "black-light" posters from my childhood come to mind. The neon colors of 80's skateboard graphics and tie-dye tee shirts, purple-esque mirage-like mirror sunglasses with neon frames of the same era. Hallucinogens, and euphoria. Cinema and the Texas sunsets from my youth as big as an ocean. Nature and the cosmos. Reality and science fiction. The body and the mind, to name a few."