

ARTIST STATEMENT ON ABSTRACT SERIES

My Abstract series continues the horizontal themes that have become the dominant and unifying feature of most of my art. However, the abstract series becomes even less rooted in realism. Instead, I emphasize colors and shapes that provoke emotional reactions in me as I look around at my environment. They are the shapes and colors that trigger my imagination and allow me to go in any direction I wish. Sometimes that direction is remembering certain landscapes or skylines, but other times the direction is only to appreciate an interesting shape, dynamic color, or subtle line.

In the “Last Light” series such as “Last Light Yellow”, the paintings are somewhat abstract and represent the last light that we see *after* the sun sets. I became interested in the colors that occur *after* the sun has dipped below the horizon while in Anguilla, BVI. There I observed that the colors in the clouds are most vivid when they are not competing with the light of the setting sun. I began to explore the soul of this moment in time...the “last light”. I discovered that the intensity of the color in contrast to the surrounding darkened sky determined the colors and shapes that provoked an emotional reaction within me.

In my torn paper series, I abstracted shapes by tearing pieces of paper painted with watercolor. I then reassembled them into a scene suggestive of a landscape or seascape in order to explore new shapes and compositions. In other pieces, I reassembled torn pieces of canvas to explore the contrasts between light and dark areas.