

Jason Brockert • Artist Statement

In my life I often seek out logical systems that can govern the tasks I undertake. The most apt parallel I can present is that I feel compelled to understand how to cook as opposed to just being able to follow a recipe. In making paintings, this desire to understand is magnified and it is the motivator that pulls me back to studio day after day. An individual piece generates its own peculiarities and fascinations but also offers difficult challenges as part of the package. These daily challenges become manageable when the discovery of some broader context seems possible. Construction and archeology intertwine as I excavate the foundation of my own sensibilities and once found, I must question how the pieces of my philosophy fit together. If they fit well, then the foundation that propels growth and discovery is firm.

That layered foundation is built with hard work and this has been the common thread of any accomplishments I've gained. This attitude spurs and inspires a similar approach to making paintings. Specifically, I turn towards multiple layers of paint; color layered over transparent color as a logical extension of my sensibilities. In order for the chosen shapes that sit on the page to generate meaning I feel they must have their own history. With almost obsession, I believe that if I layer enough paint, enough times I will begin to create a new and also echo the old history that life presents. There is an almost visceral ache if I find a work or a mark has developed too quickly and my every fiber screams that it needs more. I'm practically compelled to work and overwork and somehow revive a painting until the layers accumulate to reach an inevitable point of substance and meaning.

If an audience gives a little of themselves and offers their time to art they will find their investment rewarded. At its best, art reminds us of things forgotten or sometimes teaches us about things unknown. I strive to make my work acknowledge this possibility and like your eyes adjusting in a dark room, if you give time to the paintings and the language they speak you will start to see your own meaning reflected within.

A wise person once said "in the short term art changes nothing but over time it can change everything."

I believe that change is possible.