

Triptych: Rayonist Landscape, Rift Redux, 2010, lasers, diffraction gratings, central panel 9 x 6 m, wings, 9 x 4 m
Teatro del Círculo de Bellas Artes de Tenerife

Rayonist Landscape is a new work created for the Circulo de Bellas Artes de Tenerife. It forms the central panel of the triptych for the installation in the Teatro del Círculo de Bellas Artes de Tenerife.

This panel continues the development of the Trajectories series and for the first time incorporates multi-colored light. Prior works in the series were monochromatic, executed only in red. This work employs the additive primaries, red, blue, and green, to create a new composition. With this enhanced palette a more representational effect can be attempted. The use of these additive primaries also references the use of these colors in computer and television screens, invoking the mechanics of virtual reality.

The work for the first time explores an abstraction of a scene from nature, a landscape, as opposed to the non-representational approach of the first two works in the series, pure plastic compositions. The artist developed an interest in the works of the Rayonists, early 20th century Russian painters Larionov and Goncharova, and in studying their work discovered that Larionov had proposed both an representational and non-representational form of Rayonism. Both forms of Rayonism attempted to free painting from the burden of explicit reproduction of nature, while continuing to develop forms and compositions which owed their structure to the natural world. This is distinct from the works of Malevich or Kandinsky, who attempted to create completely nonrepresentational visual fields.

This work continues the artist's interest in unconventional drawing techniques. Here, the compositional strategies of painting are realized in the non-material media of light. The work has origins in the "Light and Space" art of California, but rejects the austere minimalism of those works and seems exuberant and expressive instead.

The work employs over 50 diode lasers; small low power devices which are not at all hazardous. The appearance of the light from lasers has a unique quality, stemming from the fact that it is totally chromatically pure, consisting of only a single wavelength, and completely linear, or coherent. The opportunities to manipulate this light source differ radically from conventional light sources. When this incredibly pure light encounters disruptive media it reacts very differently, creating complex textural shapes which have unique forms. A family of these forms, developed by the artist, resemble painted brush-strokes, and this resemblance is exploited to reference the works of the Rayonists.

Rayonist landscape forms the central panel of a tryptich which invokes medieval altar peices. The side panels redux the earlier Trajectories composition, "Rift", forming mirror images of each other. These side panels are non-representational compositions. The central panel is completely new for the series. In addition to the use of multi-colored light, the composition has an explicit representational but abstract intent, that of a landscape, with the ground in green, the sky in blue, and an intermediate "zone of conflict" in the red of the earlier pieces.

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