

# HAKAN UNLU

KEW STUDIO

## WINTER EXHIBITION

4<sup>TH</sup> TO 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

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**Algorithmic Compositions:** Inspired from an earlier series of digital works that were released as NFTs, this group of paintings examine ways of blending traditional and digital techniques. The patterns are drawn directly on the canvas. Then the drawing is digitized and colouring is done using a digital tool. The colour of each area is calculated based on the mathematical relation of colours in the underlying layers and patterns. Then the canvas is painted with acrylic paint, trying to get as close to the digitally calculated colour as possible. Due to the fundamental differences in how colours are



formed on a computer screen and on canvas, the result is never an exact replica of the digital design but still, the computational process is visible on the end product.

This painting method emulates how we interact with computers in our everyday lives. We feed them some data, they do their number crunching, and represent their version of reality. Then we need to

interpret their output to understand it, but this interpretation inevitably contains a part of us. The process used in creating Algorithmic Compositions is an attempt to capture this interaction.

### **Abstract Expressionism or Leftover Paint Series:**

Although started as a coincidence and a joke, this group of paintings became my most sought-after pieces. When painting with acrylics, their fast-drying nature results in the paint leftover on the palette being wasted. While looking for ways of making use of this leftover paint to reduce waste, I applied it randomly on another canvas with a palette knife and the end product was quite interesting. Since then I always keep an extra canvas to apply the leftover paint.

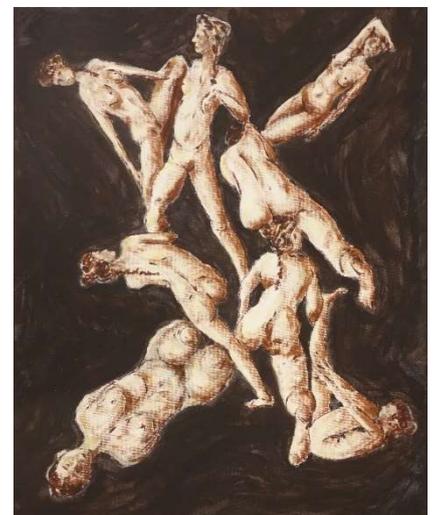


This technique questions the relation between intention and chance. The colours intended for one painting and were carefully mixed, become random colours for another one. The colours that were applied with care and precision in the original painting are applied to random places on the second canvas with the sole purpose of covering it with paint. The end result is always harmonious, probably because the process itself ensures some sort of order in the chaos.



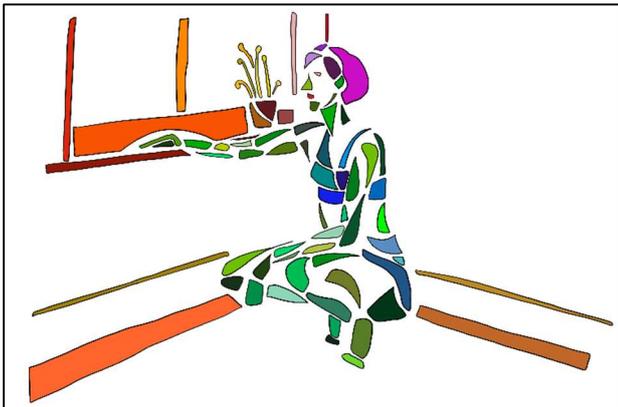
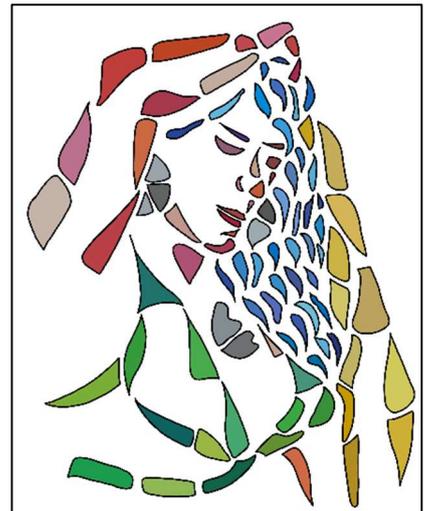
**Ebru Series:** Ebru, which is still practised widely in Turkey, is the traditional Eastern art of creating colourful patterns by sprinkling and brushing colour pigments onto a pan of oily water and then transferring the patterns to paper. However, my technique is purely digital. Using the fluid forms and various colour mixing techniques in multiple layers, this group of works attempts to blend traditional and modern techniques to create abstract compositions.

**Figurative Compositions:** I like life drawing sessions. Like improvised Jazz, something harmonious may come out in a very short time. Poses that follow each other are not known in advance and they are held for a few minutes. I draw all poses directly on one canvas or a single sheet of paper. The surprise element of the next pose and the limited drawing time build their own forces to pull the composition in different directions. I complete the drawing within the session, and then paint it later.



**Shard Life Drawings:** Long time ago, while I was studying for my degree in Cognitive Science, I read an article on Gestalt Principles of Visual Perception. The article included an image of a dog made with a few inkblots. This image popped into my mind in one life drawing session, and this is how the Shard Life Drawings were born.

The question is, how many features of the original scene or figure can be eliminated or altered, with the image still being a good representation of the drawn object. The



Gestalt principles

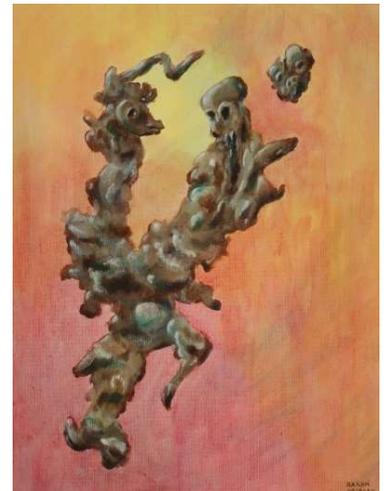
of figure and ground, proximity, common region, and continuity can be observed in these drawings that blend artistic and scientific ideas.

Most of my recent Shard Drawings are digital. Earlier ones were drawn on paper and coloured with colour pencils, watercolours, or even ballpoint pens.



**Elements of Fantasy:** The works that fall under this category are paintings of imaginary figures.

They are a combination of fantasy, surrealist images, and sometimes simple jokes.



# HAKAN UNLU



I am a Turkish artist living in London since 2016. My formal training is in Computer Engineering and I hold a master's degree in Cognitive Science. I often use both disciplines as a source of inspiration.

Arts and sciences have always been my main interests in life, and in my artworks, I explore different ways of bringing them together.

I mainly use acrylics for my paintings, but also use digital painting tools to create digital works.



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