

The Unspoken Haiku (2021)

The Unspoken Haiku series is a set of 106 small, abstract paintings painted during a period of concentrated practice in 2021. They do not have a specific message, but attempt to transcend categorisation, and inspire self-reflection. I regard them as objects of meditation, which mirror one's state of mind, and provide a vehicle for contemplation.

While making these works I aimed to channel my immediate emotion and capture it in a condensed format. The results map my changing state of mind, via my relationship with the paint, ink, paintbrush, and paper, along the timeline of production. I specifically chose a series of 106 because the number holds a personal resonance for me related to buddhist teachings I was reading concurrent with making the works.

In parallel with painting I composed a unique haiku, a Japanese style 3 line poem, for each work, which compliments the visual. The haiku imply hidden significance without being specific. They transcend the painting and vice versa, each balancing and countering the other, suggesting that there may be further nuances for the viewer to uncover related to their own perception and intuition. The haiku that is unspoken is the one that each person composes for themselves subconsciously in response to the work.