

George Braque "There is only one valuable thing in art: The thing you cannot explain."

"Reality only reveals itself when it is illuminated by a ray of poetry."

Artistic Statement

Elysium: The Makings of the Paradise

Elysian Fields Mysteries Series

A simple definition of field is: a space in which an activity takes place.

My paintings are about the field of activities that lead to discovery of paradise here and now in this lifetime as opposed to there and then in afterlife.

My process comprise of facing a blank canvas as paradise in *potentia*. The space and the visual elements (lines and color spots) that I paint manifest a visual field for a particular paradise. The finished painting is a journey of spirit to the Elysian Field Mysteries with its greater and smaller mysteries.

The lines symbolize the pathways; the inner and outer routes the spirit must take. And the spots of colors are the stops along the way to savor the earthly pleasures e.g, a hot cup of coffee on a cold winter day, a walk in the park. Or spiritual joys, e.g. a high elevated feeling after reading an intense novel, or the flight of fancy before a painting. In my painted images some such experiences are long others short, but all are fluid, engaging an eternal flow, a perpetual motion like the river of life.

While writing my memoir post a major heart attack, *Paradise now, remembering my father's favorite verses of Omar Khayyam*, I fell under Khayyam's poetic spell. Here is my translation of one of Omar Khayyam's *rubai*--in Farsi, rubai is a four liner poem.

Heart of mine, listen, you will not unravel life mystery

All those learned theories you value fall short

Here and now with the cup and wine make your paradise

There and that paradise, you may find or may not

The poetic rays of the Persian poet illuminated a primordial question. Beyond all the fancy intellectual theories that I have always valued and learned, what is my paradise here and now? And how could I "create " that paradise while living now?

I knew as a painter, the harmony of color creates a high paradisaal feeling for me, but what about form. what form does that take?

If the elysium exists in Hades, the color-induced paradisaal feeling is the journey to the heavenly underworld fields. And the hues as entheogenic substances making a shamanic journey of ecstasy, a trancelike state of reverie possible. Yet not predetermined, the form remained absent. I began the work anyway.

Finally, the paradisaal forms revealed themselves in living colors as a result of the processes of painting.