

PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY

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ELIZABETH BARNES

ARTIST STATEMENT

Elizabeth Barnes' paintings, in various mediums, are borne out of an innate interest in the repeated patterns of life revealed through the use of imaging technologies, as well as the new, virtual world surrounding us.

Barnes is especially interested in the junction where science, technology, mathematics, and art meet and feed one another. She explores these complex threads through layering paint and subtle colour shifts to create a tenuous visual balance.

Many of Barnes' images are inspired by computer-generated mathematical equations. Often, these mathematical constructs mimic life forms in an uncanny way. She questions where the natural and synthetic meet and how they affect one another. Barnes believes that as our world becomes increasingly more complex, our sense of balance becomes more and more precarious, and yet somehow beauty survives.

The paintings are made by layering thin glazes of translucent color. Some layers include technical drawings, while others include transformation of the pigments by applying drops of solvents, rubbing, scratching, or brushing. The subtle shifts of color, combined with technical explorations, create a tenuous balance fluctuating between visceral and cerebral. The interaction of color and form appeals to a sensory moment that reminds the viewer of the interconnectedness of all living things.