

Artist's Statement

The pieces I create are artifacts of my own process of understanding. Made with traditional techniques and modern tools: paint and ink, projection and programming - through them I explore relationships that in the world can remain obscure.

The Anni Sfumato project is such an exploration. It captures over 400 years of painting in nine renderings. Each piece blends a collection of contemporary paintings from each of the nine 50-year eras between 1550 and 1950 into a unique new rendering that reveals the commonality of the sources without losing their uniqueness or complexity. Close viewing of each piece reveals its deep structure in ghostly, almost invisible faces, landscapes, cities, and abstractions. But a step away unifies those elements into something essentially different, while taking in all the pieces at once reveals the transformations of 400 years of artistic styles.

Traditional techniques ground my work, but the addition of digital tools enable a subtlety impossible to render with a brush. The Anni Sfumato renderings, for instance, would not be possible purely through painting. The historical source material demands absolutely faithful reproduction. And the extensive layering of images involved in each piece, with each square inch of canvas representing over 20 other paintings, each of which may themselves consist of many additional layers is perfectly suited to an algorithmic solution.

The result: the brilliant colors of the renaissance, the murky encroachment of the industrial revolution, and the explosive abstraction and geometry of the modern all stand out in their particular eras in newly foreign but somehow familiar ways. Luminous but mysterious, they raise new questions about their nature.