

The Intersection of Light Art, Astronomy, and Color:

A Unique Blend of Oil Painting and Light Art

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I. Introduction

Art has always been a powerful tool for exploring and understanding the world around us. In recent years, the intersection of art and science has gained significant attention, with artists exploring new ways to express the beauty of the universe through various mediums. This paper examines the unique blend of oil painting and light art in the works of a Bachelor of Fine Arts student, heavily influenced by James Turrell's exploration of the tactile and color force of light to create visually stunning experiences. This research aims to demonstrate how light art installations, combined with astronomy and color, can evoke emotions and spark contemplation on the beauty of the universe and human romance.

II. Background and Influences

A. James Turrell's Influence

James Turrell is a renowned artist known for his exploration of light and space in creating mesmerizing experiences. His work has significantly influenced the student's approach to light art and the intersection of art and astronomy (Waterhouse 729). Turrell's exploration of the intangible matters of color and sound in art emphasizes the powerful emotional impact of light and color (Figal and McGavran 307). His work

explores the spatiality of color, providing an ecological perspective on the chromatic character of light (Gambaro).

B. Other Light Artists

Other light artists, such as Anthony McCall and Olafur Eliasson, have also contributed to the development of light art, emphasizing the importance of light and shadow (Richard 251; Michaud and Michelson 3). Eliasson's immersive light environments showcase the potential of light art in creating shared experiences and promoting unity (Architectural Record 190).

III. Artistic Approach

A. Oil Paintings: Celestial Imagery and Human Connection

The student's oil paintings serve as a prelude to their light art pieces, focusing on themes of people looking up at the sky. These paintings capture the sense of wonder and awe people experience when gazing at the night sky and their longing for the vastness and mystery of space (Johnson 315).

Earth from Voyager: Inspired by the iconic photograph taken by the Voyager spacecraft, the student creates an oil painting that captures Earth as a pale blue dot against the vastness of space, reminding viewers of our planet's fragility and the importance of cherishing it.

Sunlit Fingertips: This painting features a person lying in water, reaching their hands towards the sky as sunlight pours onto their fingers. The artwork evokes a sense of longing and a desire for connection to the cosmos.

Meteor Impact: This piece depicts a meteor striking the moon, symbolizing the ever-

changing nature of the universe and the powerful forces that shape our celestial landscape.

Campfire Under the Stars: In this painting, a person sits by a colorful campfire that emits multicolored flames and sparks resembling stars. The artwork captures the human fascination with the cosmos and the sense of wonder we experience when gazing at the night sky.

B. Light Art Installations: Solar Eclipse and Lunar Eclipse

The student's light art installations draw from the celestial themes of their oil paintings, incorporating elements of astronomy and color. Through these installations, the artist creates a space where people can come together and experience the beauty and tranquility of the moment (Edensor 138).

Solar Eclipse: In this installation, the student creates a representation of a solar eclipse using a circular, convex glass surface. The surface is meticulously crafted to resemble the moon's surface and coated with a light-absorbing paint with a 99.3% absorption rate. LED lights are attached to the back of the glass and project light onto the wall behind it, creating the illusion of a solar eclipse.

Lunar Eclipse: This installation features two LED light strips wrapped around the inside and outside edges of a circular disc. A sheet of rice paper covers the front of the disc. The inner LED light strip emits a red glow, representing the red moon during a lunar eclipse, while the outer strip emits a blue light to mimic the appearance of the cosmos. The rice paper in front of the LEDs softens and diffuses the light, creating a gentle, atmospheric effect.

IV. The Intersection of Art, Astronomy, and Color

A. Astronomy and Light Art

The student's work explores the intersection of art and astronomy, aiming to express the beauty of the universe through their pieces. By incorporating astronomical themes and celestial landscapes into their light art installations, the student captures the breathtaking beauty of the cosmos and encourages viewers to contemplate the vastness of the universe (Waterhouse 740).

B. Color in Light Art

Color plays a vital role in the student's light art installations, reflecting the chromatic character of light and the various hues found in the cosmos. The student's work emphasizes the spatiality of color, drawing inspiration from James Turrell's ecological perspective on the chromatic character of light (Gambaro).

V. The Impact of the Artworks

A. Emotional Resonance

The student's work, through its unique blend of oil painting and light art, evokes strong emotions in viewers, allowing them to connect with the beauty and tranquility of the moment (Haigney 30). The use of light and color in the installations creates a visually stunning experience that captivates viewers and sparks contemplation on the beauty of the universe and human romance.

B. Social Impact

The student's art provides a space where people can come together, forget their differences, and experience the beauty and tranquility of the moment. By creating

shared experiences through their artworks, the student promotes unity and understanding among viewers, fostering a sense of community (Edensor 147).

C. Inspirational Impact

The student's artwork not only seeks to be visually appealing but also aims to inspire those who view it. By exploring the intersection of art, astronomy, and color, the student encourages viewers to consider the vastness and beauty of the universe, fostering a deeper appreciation for the cosmos and our place within it (Garlaschelli 780).

VI. Society's Disconnection from the Cosmos

Over the years, it has become increasingly apparent that fewer people are looking up at the night sky, seemingly trapped in their own small worlds. Society seems to be focused on issues such as war, finance, and politics, and this disconnection from the cosmos is a tragic development for humanity as a whole. The student's artwork aims to remind viewers of the vastness of the universe and the insignificance of human existence, in the hope of encouraging people to reconnect with the cosmos and appreciate the beauty that lies beyond our planet. By incorporating elements of astronomy and color into their light art installations, the student creates visually stunning experiences that evoke emotions and spark contemplation on the beauty of the universe and human romance. The student's work not only provides a sense of peace and inspiration to viewers but also promotes unity and understanding through shared experiences. By pushing the boundaries of art and science, the student showcases the potential of light art in capturing the awe-inspiring beauty of the cosmos and inspiring viewers to appreciate the universe's wonders.

VII. Conclusion

The student's artwork, consisting of light installations and oil paintings, seeks to reconnect people with the cosmos and inspire a sense of awe and wonder towards the universe. By creating visually stunning and thought-provoking pieces, the student aims to encourage viewers to contemplate the beauty and vastness of the universe, as well as our place within it. Through the exploration of art and astronomy, the student's work serves as a reminder of the importance of cherishing our planet and appreciating the celestial wonders that surround us.

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