

With my latest group of digital paintings, I offer the viewer a fantastical biosphere of botanic and aquatic images. Rooted in the Greek philosophy of “Music of the Spheres”, these abstract artworks are suggestive of the pulse or rhythm of life.

This series of pieces originated in my mind on a wee hours saunter on an urban greenbelt. My attention was seized by a microcosm of insect webs and dew drops, which seemed to throb with an exquisite energy that felt almost audible.

The spectre recalled to me the ancient concept that celestial bodies vibrate to make a form of music. It was reasoned that, humankind, living in the midst of this continuous symphony, defines it as silence. But with tender consideration to the individual reverberations, each is revealed to be a sacred descant of beauty, complete within itself and yet a dynamic voice in the ensemble.

Influential in the classical and Renaissance eras, this concept seems particularly germane today. My graduate studies in the field of Human Ecology, coupled with my Art History background, inform my reinterpretation of the philosophical metaphor into a visual domain.

To reference the vibrational energies of nature, I utilize the push-and-pull of aesthetic elements across the frame. I counterpose dense areas with transparencies, solid with splatter, organic with mechanical. I take liberties with conventional notions of space. I employ an ebullient palette and compositions rich in verticals to convey a sense of grace and fortitude. I often use exaggerated scale and the illusion of backlighting to suggest a poetic or divine disposition.

My goal with these works is to leave the viewer energized, perhaps with a heightened awareness of the nuance of passing moments, and of the ongoing contribution of the smallest perfections around us.

Chalda Maloff