

John Lyon Paul

2014

Spun From Light, Woven in Silence

sculpture painting

Spun from Light, Woven in Silence

John Lyon Paul



Artist's Opening Reception
Saturday September 6
5 – 7 p

Exhibit Dates
September 6 – October 25
Monday – Friday 1 – 5 p
Saturday 12 – 3 p

www.utica.edu/gallery
ucexhibits@gmail.com
www.johnlyonpaul.com
www.ktcassoc.com

exhibition organized through
Katharine T. Carter and Associates

September 6 – October 25, 2014
Utica College, New York



Paul creates sculptural devices that orient us to this axis of human experience.

His sculptures' qualities are complemented by those of his paintings: material construction and expressive touch, spiritual rigor and exuberant freedom, slow practice and quick realization.

In these contrasting qualities we begin to understand that a kind of unity emerges, a way of understanding the whole of life.

John Mendelsohn
ArtNet and Cover Magazine

Paul's sculptures, in contrast to his paintings, are rooted in materiality, in a sense of mortality, and in spiritual aspiration.

hammered metal and carved wood,
they take the form of prayer wheels,
freestanding works,
abstract organic and geological forms.

In his large, publicly scaled pieces, Paul confronts nuclear destruction and the harrowing cost of political violence.

John Mendelsohn
ArtNet and Cover Magazine



May 16, 2009: Katy Gottschalk turns Nagasaki Prayerwheel for the first time.

Nagasaki
Prayer
Wheel,
detail





The Manhattan Project WW2 nuclear bombing projects

Hiroshima Japan August 6, 1945
Nagasaki Japan August 9, 1945



...from the 1970's to 2014







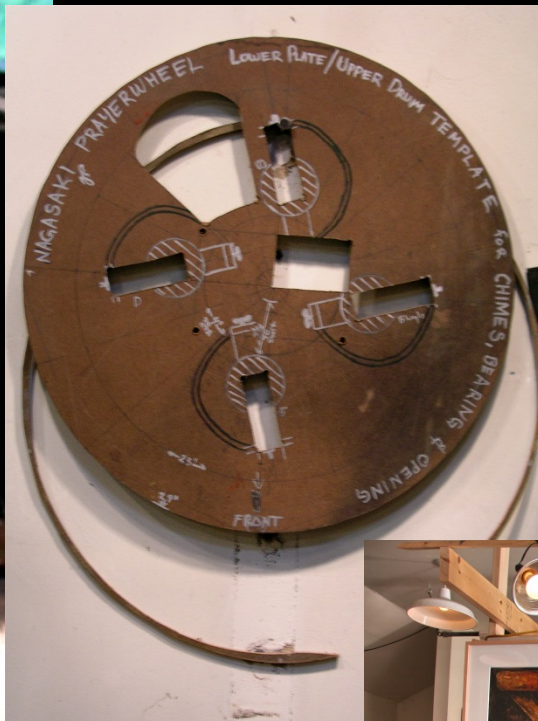


Sculptures compliment paintings today....

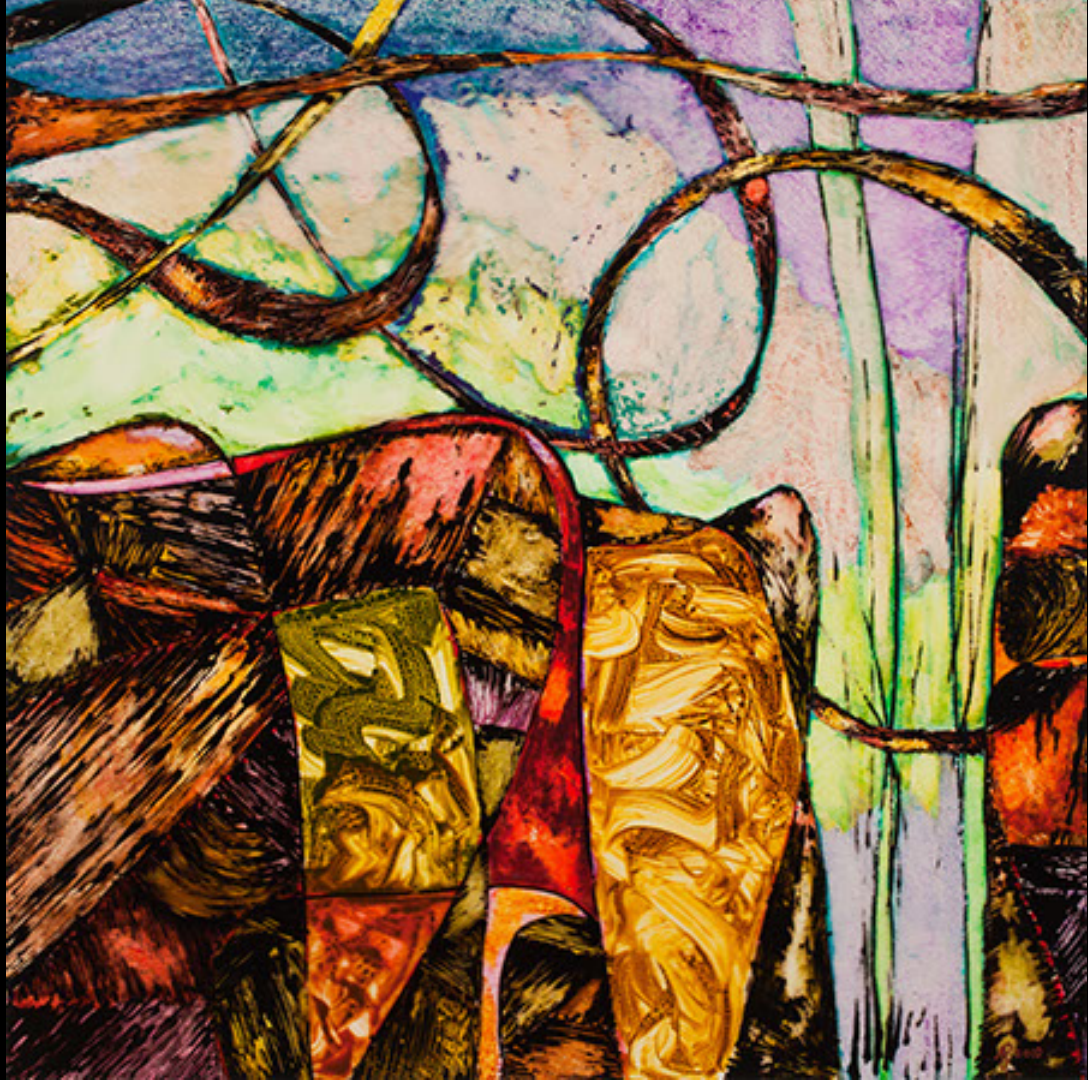
- ...material construction and expressive touch,
- ...spiritual rigor and exuberant freedom,
- ...slow practice and quick realization.

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Using acrylic paint and ink on the reverse side of the clear support, he employs a spectrum of painterly effects.







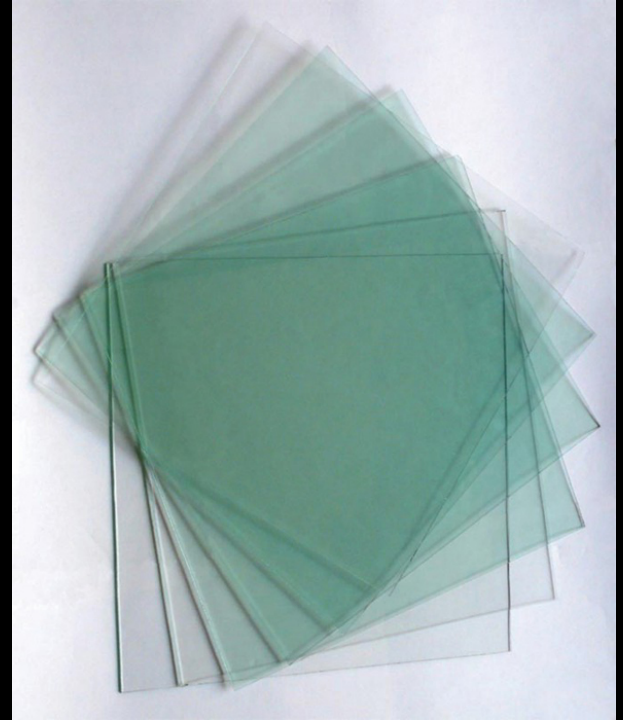
Looking at John Lyon Paul's paintings, we intuit a set of procedures and a language of form .

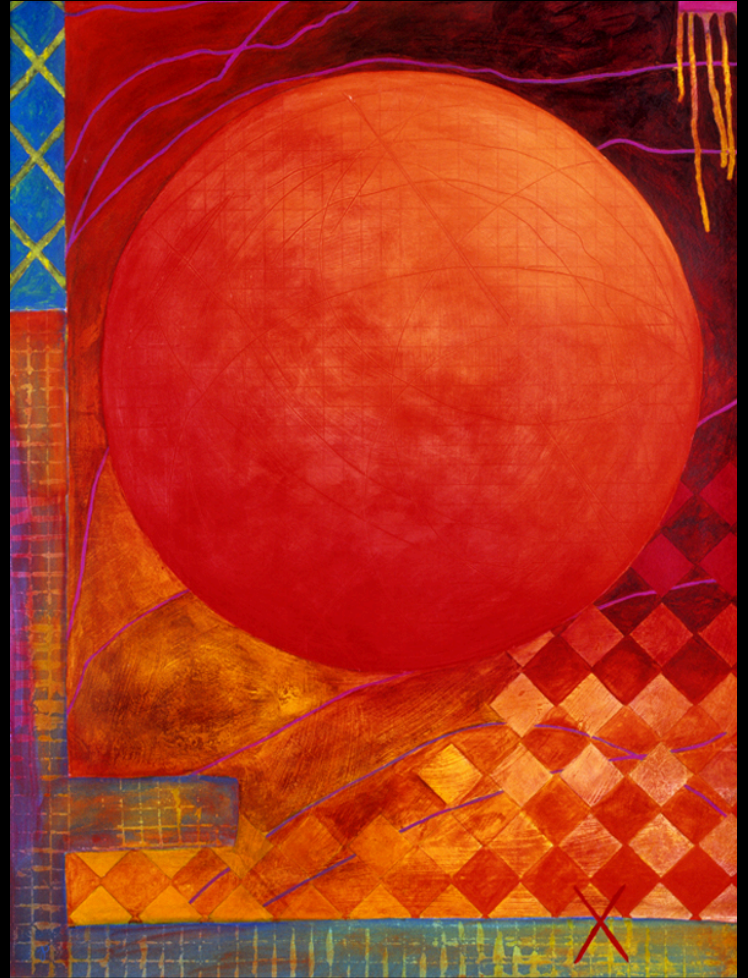
Paul's paintings are done on Mylar and on Glass which gives them a fugitive quality..

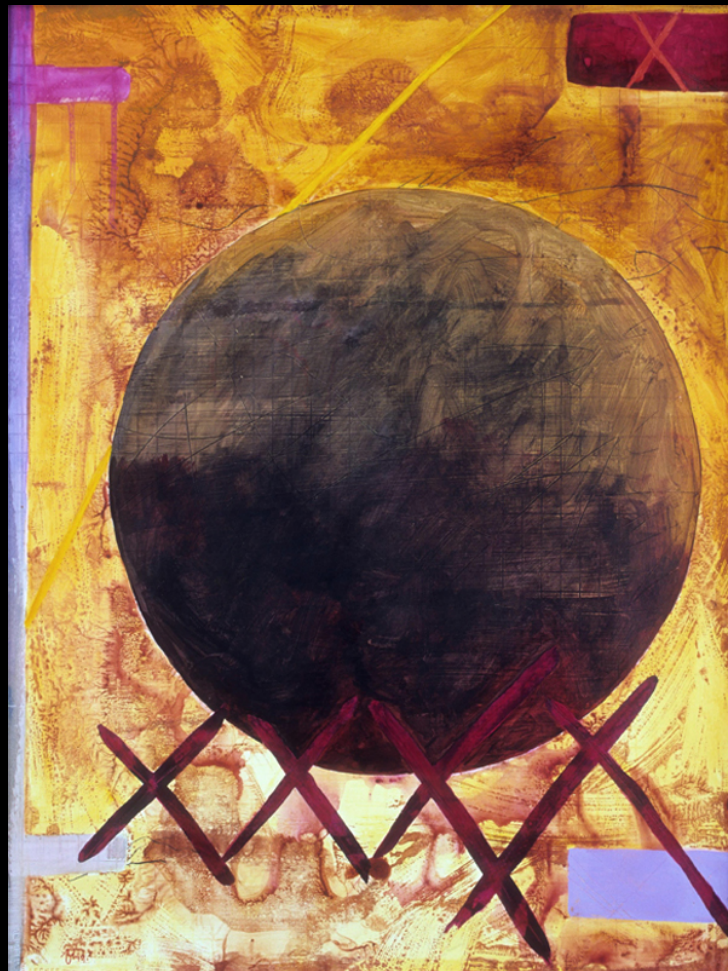
Using acrylic paint and ink on the reverse side of the clear support, he employs a spectrum of painterly effects.

The paint's shifting densities reinforce the sense that we are looking through a window which holds the image and gives way to light which both illuminates and scours it.

John Mendelsohn
ArtNet and Cover Magazine







***Studies on Mylar and Glass*, the ongoing series of more than 50 works that he began in 2010, falls into three categories,**

- 1 beginning with imagined landscapes, with large forms that suggest gorges, rocky topography, and stormy skies. All of these can be read as visions of the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York, the artist's home for more than 40 years.**
- 2 A second group of paintings employs a graphic X that implies an existential conundrum: a bold assertion of identity that at the same time aggressively negates.**
- 3 The third kind of paintings are complex works in which abstract forms start to resemble organic and geometric images in a small cosmos bounded by gray borders.**







John Lyon Paul

b. 1943 Ossining, NY

BA English, Hamilton College, NY, 1965

Studio and Residence, near Ithaca, NY



Carving "Cat Princess"



Painting on Glass



Life and Art Influences:

- 1960's USA political struggle awareness
- 1964 USA Civil Rights Movement, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Mississippi
- 1964 USA Alternative Service Program
BA, English, Hamilton College, NY
- 1970 Advanced from Writing to Visual Art, carved figural wood sculptures and began meditation
Became a self-taught professional artist with establishing his own studio near Ithaca NY
- 1982 *Vow of Silence*, sculpture with 7 month vow of personal silence
Artistic vow and style of transforming violence into compassion and heal the wounds of the nuclear age
- 1980's Began painting in association with sculpture
Began his intuitive process to engage and trust material exploration as part of process
Developed the concept of Art as an aid to healing and inner growth

1996-2001

Pilgrimage, a series of over 100 paintings

Oracle, Mirage, and Templates for Another Life, series of paintings

2003-2009

Meditation Shawls, painting portal for viewer interaction

2009

Shrouds for Children, series of shrouds for individual children
that died from large, human-caused events

2010-present

Studies on Mylar and Glass, currently 50 paintings are completed in
this series. Luminous, reverse-sided paintings set in transparency
while expressing abstracted landscapes.

The *Studies on Mylar and Glass* are in three distinctive modes:

...imaginative landscapes,

...works with natural and architectonic forms, and

...variations with X as an armature.

Photography

Gary Hodges
Roger William Thiese
Jon Reis
Katy Gottschalk

Art Critic Commentary

John Mendelsohn, NYC and CT
Katharine T. Carter and Associates, NYC

Visual Presentation

Barrett Art Gallery
Utica College, NY
2014