

Artist Statement

My paintings begin as two abstract designs smashed together. One design is carefully planned with drawings. It is geometrical, repetitious, copyable, controlled.

The other design is a spontaneous action painting of ink brush strokes, drips and splashes on tape. It is a chaotic performance that can't be duplicated. I cut this drippy drawing out of the tape with an Xacto knife and begin to integrate action painting with the controlled geometrical design.

I create the paintings by the layering and weaving of tape masks and colors. The tape provides a way to control where paint is deposited but it also obscures the majority of the surface for weeks. I can't see how well the layers painted on one day are integrating with layers covered by tape weeks ago. It is a risky way to work. I don't use computers, projectors or even rulers as aides. There is not a truly straight line in any painting I make. When I finally peel off all of the tape, it is the first time I can see the two designs integrated. I am sometimes disappointed and sometimes elated, but always surprised by the result.

-Greg Hopkins