

GREG EDMONDSON

“Humans love laws and seek predictability. But like our Universe, which thrives on entropy, we need disorder to flourish” - Alan Lightman

When I came to OAC in 2015, I was not a painter. I had studied painting years ago, but had focused on sculpture and drawing since 1985. For the decade and a half prior to this residency, my work had centered around an exploration of pattern and code as a set of generative or self-organizing systems. Through processes of repetition, sequence and dispersal I constructed complex images consisting of simple, consecutive “bits” of information. This body of work began as a studio exercise that was designed in part to remove Personal Narrative from any reading of the finished works.

This practice was well suited to my life before residency. With a full-time job and a daughter at home, a practice so easily stepped into or out of was beneficial. In this place – where my studio time became virtually limitless – I wanted to move through ideas more rapidly than this meticulous and time-consuming practice would allow. I began to experiment – tentatively at first, but then more widely and wildly - producing five large, interconnected bodies of work in 4 1/2 years.

I’ve been making things and experimenting with materials for over 40 years. Both my work and the practices from which it came have taken many forms. But I find myself continuously circling back toward formal abstraction. When working with the purely abstract – you are never dealing with a simple “what”, but always with an endless “what if”. At times a painting I have struggled with for months has been saved through such a small act as the addition of a single brush stroke, or simply by turning it upside down. Personal Narrative has also returned to the work, but manifests as a form, a structure or a color scheme. The clearest glimpse of a personal experience behind any given painting is most evident through the work’s title.

I don’t know exactly where this new work is leading me. But I am fairly certain that it will lead me to continue chasing chaos.