



From the Greek κύκλος to the black hole, I have drawn and been drawn to circles, recognizing their geometric and spiritual significance, as well as visual appeal. I have depicted rose windows, rainbows, halos, planets, dark holes and more, while I relish the possibilities of this fundamental geometric shape with a long and fascinating history.

In these four paintings I begin with one or more of this shape that has repeatedly engaged me, moving outward from the source with a series of brushstrokes. I have not planned the painting in advance; I follow my arm and my eye.

The strokes build on each other, at first slowly, then more rapidly, expressively. The marks are agitated, clashing, as I confront the circular shapes and the area around them. The original circles are altered, sometimes flattened into ovals or irregular discs, enlarged or reduced in size. Shapes may partially or completely disappear, or retain a shadow while merging into the surrounding space. Hints of new circles materialize. There is a sense for me of something beyond my control, a movement away from the rational. I don't think through each stroke. I might feel agitated, frenzied, or excited, as I lose track of individual marks. I may paint over entire sections, but I know when I have achieved a sense of balance, of wholeness. I set down my brush.

Is my process a metaphor for the struggle of life? Certainly it is a meaningful experience for me.

Don Lewallen, 2023