



Gavin Rain
(South African, born 1971)

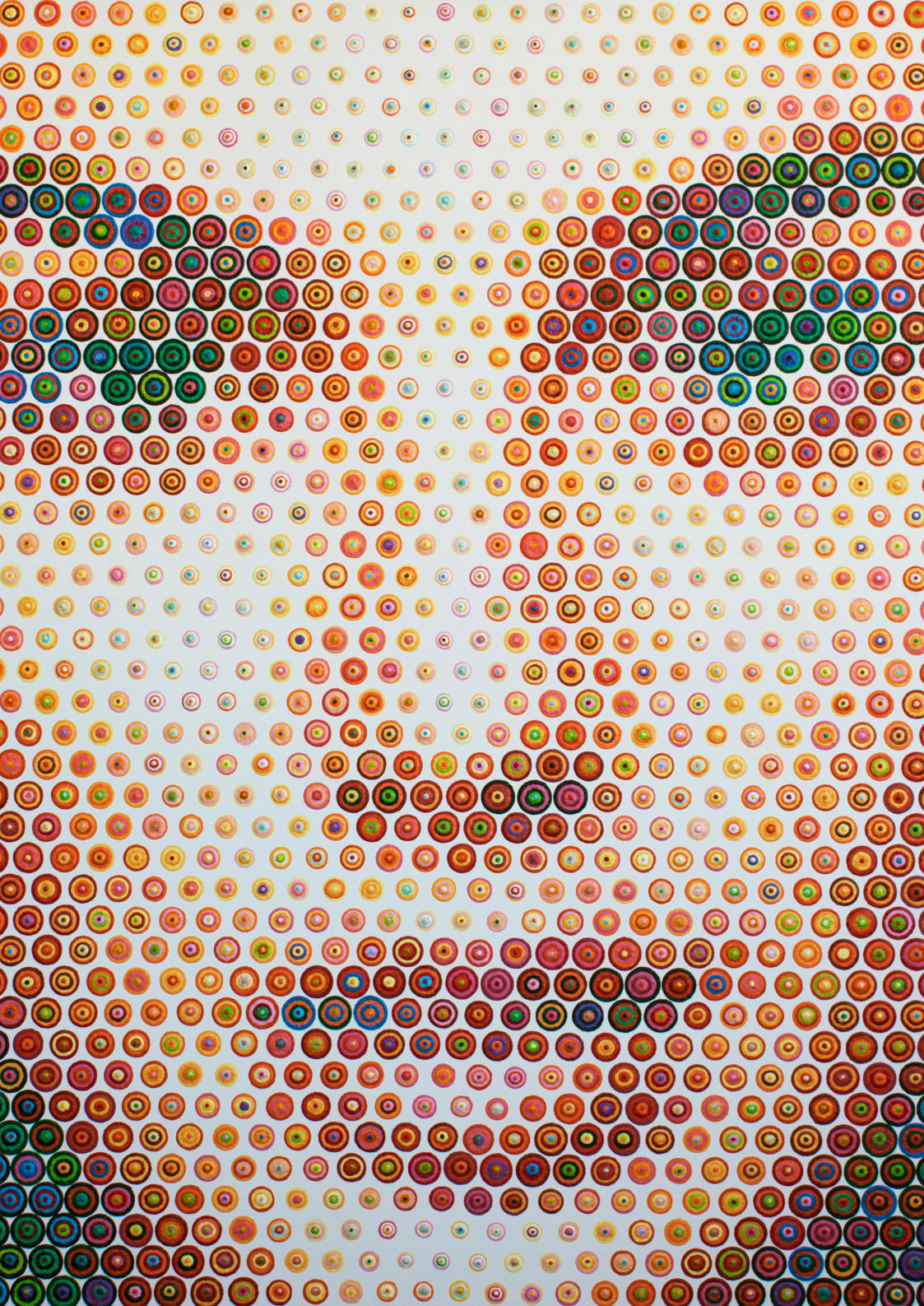
Biography

Gavin Rain was born in Cape Town on 23 March 1971. He studied Art and Neuropsychology at the University of Cape Town in the 80's and 90's. Rain has been painting his whole life, but started with pointillism around 2003/2004. He is influenced by Seurat, Russian avant garde art of the 1900's and many architects. Earlier in his live, he planned to study architecture, to try and combine his two interests: art and mathematics.

Artworks and technique

Up close, Rain's paintings consist of small concentric dots painted in different colors of acrylic paint. From a distance your eye puts these colors together into one. The further the viewer steps back, the more clear the portrait becomes. He starts his paintings by making a sketch of the portrait he wants to paint. To decide the place of the dots on the canvas, he either uses a grid, made of strings, or projection. The grid takes about ten hours to make, but is more accurate than using projection, so Rain still uses both techniques. Then he picks the colors for the final dots. He starts by deciding the final color that he wants a dot to be and starts working backwards. Rain has a list of 14.000 different dots that he has made. Out of this list, he picks the combination that creates the color he wants.

Another important part of the technique is changing each dot size. The white canvas Rain uses as a background means that the smaller the dot, the more white background around it. So the bigger the dots, the darker an area gets and the smaller the dots, the lighter the area becomes. This, combined with the distant final color each dot makes is how the image is created. However, the colors of separate dots will merge together into a new color as well. So, it's not just each dot but also a combination of dots that makes the color.



Message

Rain's objective is to broaden people's visual and cognitive horizons by showing them the fantastic and impossible. By combining his origins, his studies, aptitudes and personal talent, Rain has invented an art that is both unique and participative so that all who look at one of his paintings can perceive the convergence of two opposing pictorial styles: the abstractness of the multitude of colorful concentric circles that thicken into dense and imperfect dots in relief, and the figurative aspect of the image that is defined by the sum of these same dots as the viewer takes a few steps back. It is precisely in this backing-off that the artist's intended message lies: in order to acquire awareness of something that is concealed yet right in front of your eyes, or hidden in plain sight, you must distance yourself by moving backwards. His art is a clear invitation to 'back off', to create some distance in life as well, because as Gestalt psychology sustains, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We must view the big picture, the whole, without worrying about isolated events or individual points of view.

Selected Exhibitions

2023

SmithDavidson Icons, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

2022

Duo: Free or Form, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

2021

Eternal Beauty, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

2020

OVR Gavin Rain by SmithDavidson Gallery, Online

2019

Cabo Art Week, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA
Solo: One Step Back, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

2018

Mix & Match, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

2017

Modern Masters, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA
Time Suspended II, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
County Day School, Miami, USA
Solo: SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2016

Summer Loving, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

2015

Global Art Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

2014

Solo: From a Distance, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
Nassau Museum, Long Island New York, USA

2013

Supernaturalism, Bangladesh Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale,
Venice, Italy

2011

Costa Rica pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2009

African Wave exhibition II, Venice, Italy
African Wave exhibition I, Trieste, Italy
Cityscapes, WorldArt gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2006

In the Flesh!, KKNK, South Africa

Selected Art Fairs

KunstRAI Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico

Art Miami, Miami, USA

EXPO Chicago, Chicago, USA

The Armory Show, New York, USA

Art New York, New York City, USA

TEFAF Maastricht, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, Palm Beach, USA