

# Rectangular Rhapsody

## **"Art is abstraction"**

Paul Gauguin

In Euclidean geometry, a Rectangle is defined as a plane figure, a quadrilateral polygon with four edges and four vertices forming four right angles.

A semiology, tells us about its specific symbolism. Actually, in different cultures from ancient Egypt to modern times the Rectangle has acquired multiple, powerful and sometimes contradictory meanings. When it is in a horizontal position, the Rectangle symbolizes the terrestrial plain, calmness, restfulness, stability and serenity. On the other hand, when it is located vertically, it symbolizes dynamism, spontaneity, power, strength, assurance, greatness, man in general and in particular his intelligence and spirit. In parallel, the vertical position also symbolizes Divine Spirit and Divine creativity.

For me, the Rectangle has turned out to be an excellent entity to represent many of my thoughts and impressions but one dominant idea kept returning to me during my pictorial research on this subject: its role played in Masonic symbolism. To be precise, a unique architectural rectangle placed in their temples, called the "Golden Rectangle" having dimensions in the ratio (1x1.618) was and still is used for the evocation of divine perfection, a kind of religious worship. It was an inspiration for me to use this geometric form and its function for my, *sensu stricto* artistic evocation, to visually reveal my perception, thinking and feeling related to color through my photographic medium. And after all, for my secular and personal adoration of color.

*Et voilà*, "Rectangular Rhapsody", part of my extensive research in the field of geometric abstraction: different colors chosen by me and located in various rectangles which were scattered randomly on the image's surface according to parameters 'assigned' by software made specifically for this project by myself with the participation of the French mathematician Antoine Teutsch. Each image shows a set of different rectangles having different colors (blue, green, red, etc.) with different shades. All these colored rectangles are placed in a non-illusionistic space and combined into non-objective (non-representational) compositions. Such abstract use of color was intended to free it from any representation of external reality, and instead let it be the subject itself, capable of expressing its immanent values and properties perceived - by me and I hope by my audience - intellectually and emotionally. *Nota bene*: this portfolio is my deep eulogy for beauty, as exemplified by

colors. This very personal feeling towards their beauty has become the raw material of my digital images and their real subject.

**Andrew Aitch**

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