

ARTIST STATEMENT FOR

CONVERSATIONS

A good conversation involves an exchange of ideas, thoughts, feelings. Typically, it is an interactive communication between two or more people, often incorporating questions and answers and developing a call and response rhythm, entailing a degree of self-disclosure. Crucially, in a balanced conversation, there is an element of turn-taking, the purpose being to learn from and connect with each other.

Conversation has become an apt metaphor for my painting practice, an iterative back-and-forth exchange between myself and my canvas. Starting with an opening gambit (random mark-making) that feeds forward in play (experimentation with colour, shape, and texture), the painting takes time to get down to business, involving constant feedback and lengthy exploration (deciding which design elements to feature). I ask my emerging painting what it needs to settle into a pleasing composition. More or less value contrast? More or less variation in shape and line? More or less saturated colour? Eventually, we come to a (provisional) closure, a resolution, or at least a clarification of the line of inquiry.

The paintings in this collection reflect my process. Some are the outcomes of co-operative dialogues, cosy and confidential chats; others are the result of heated debates, arguments about the best way forward. All involve deep listening and intuitive yet thoughtful response to both my external and internal environments.

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