

Monica Goldsmith

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Artist's Statement Subdivisions Series 2007

The unifying theme of my work is the environment, both the personal, inner terrain as well as the physical topography or mappings of a place. My most recent paintings are part of a series called Subdivisions. The work in this series explores the issues of open space, land use planning and environmental impact. As a result, the work exposes the push/pull dynamic of consumption patterns between public and private space by using the iconography of the abacus. The work focuses on the subdivisions of the abacus, as well as the consumption patterns within the various subdivisions of land, air, and water.

The paintings in this series are geometric abstractions, some of which have aerial perspectives. Specific sections of the work are transparent and other sections are opaque, relating to conspicuous consumption and private consumption levels which affect the beads, lines, and subdivisions of the abacus. True cost economics is explored by the count of the abacus beads. The exact count of the abacus beads is unknown, similar to the unknown number and timing of environmental tipping points.

This series asks environmental as well as existential questions. How is balance attained between public and private space? To what extent can consumption levels be adjusted to achieve balance? To what degree will nature reciprocate past and current actions and inactions?