

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Visual Discoursing (Part 3)

Maurice Amiel · Wednesday, July 8th, 2020

Something there is about a tree ...

... a trunk, branches and foliage are the visible parts of a tree the organization of which relates mostly to its search of light and nourishment.

Shift gears.

Think of the “rosace,” that circular stained-glass window found in the façades of gothic cathedrals, as a way of capturing another form of light to nourish the human spirit by the agency of its colors and shapes.

The search for an image of the tree as light processor

In the feature image, an organic “rosace” of sorts, I have focused on the colors of the summer foliage and used the tree trunk and branches as white light holding it together.

In the following image the fall foliage comes out in an image using the same expressive pattern of white light organizing, rosace-like, its colored components.



rosace with fall foliage

In winter as the tree becomes dormant there is only white light in the absence of its foliage colored components as shown below.



rosace with winter bare tree

One year has passed since that initial visual discourse ...

... during which various graphic explorations of the tree reported in the previous posts brought me to the realization that the “rosace,” basically two-dimensional, had to be reconsidered for a more

adequate expression of the three-dimensional reality of the tree.

I tried to reverse the approach and gave the trunk and branches a solid black visual place forward, so to speak, against the conventional yellow sun source of all light.



searching for a spatial expression

The visual discourse hastened as I saw in that image, more than interlacing tree elements, but mostly the potential expression of the organic forces taking those elements up and around each other in space, in a kind of dance.

Matisse' "Dancers" moment of translation

All visual artists internally possess, as visual culture, a stock of images the meaning of which waits, in creation, for a translating moment ... and such a moment had arrived for the fascinating painting by Matisse showing a circle of red dancers against a background of green and blue, when I saw in it my tree elements as organic dancers issued from the earth and reaching to the sky with their light catching foliage.



rosace with dancing trees

Discussion

My sister saw the last image as a sort of mandala of the tree ... other viewers simply found the image arresting.

It is not too difficult to decode the graphic means by which the impression of movement in space was arrived at: overlapping branches, etc,

I herewith acknowledge the part played by Matisse' painting in the process of my getting there.



Matisse' Dancers

Credit

Wikipedia on the web, for the Matisse painting of the Dancers

Maurice Amiel for all other images in this post

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