FROELICK GALLERY

Michael Schultheis

All of our senses in the Cycloids of Ceva, 2019

In these paintings and sculptures, I explore what happens when two people are beginning a relationship. I focus on how they develop an attraction for each other, and how they start to move through their lives together. My model is inspired by the Greek allegory of when Zeus divides a human in half, and then both halves circumnavigate the earth to find their Soul Mate. Once the two people have found each other on the other side of the world, Hephaestus sews them up. Fused together, like conjoined twins, we become whole.

In this Soul Mate model, I paint both math equations and their geometric forms that render in my mind, and then I imbue the geometries with stories about human relationships. I call this process *Analytical Expressionism* and it expands the definition of how geometry is used in art. For me, it is how I tell my stories.

In these works, I include two important variables. One variable is used to map how a person's consciousness changes over time *(tau)*, and the other variable is used to describe how this affects the overlap with another person *(nu)*. I also use the polar curve called a *limaçon* developed by the artist and mathematician Albrecht Dürer that has both an interior loop and an exterior loop, which I use to represent a person's interior and exterior self. This is the perfect visual metaphor for the continuum of consciousness developed by the Swiss psychoanalyst Carl Jung.

The Dalai Lama encourages people to visualize their consciousness through their lives. These paintings allow us to visualize our consciousness and think about how to increase our area of overlap with another person through time. This is similar to the overlap of two circles in a Venn Diagram, where the collective consciousness of two people can expand. By matching the twin loops, the overlap of the collective consciousness becomes greater for two people - and over time - forms a perfect circle.

These new works are further inspired by the geometric curve developed by the Italian mathematician Giovanni Ceva (1699). The small interior loops represent two people reaching for each other to experience the Venn overlap of their collective consciousness. The larger loops represent the reverberation below, and the resonation above, capturing all the precious moments of connection between us, when we become aware of all our infinite senses in the *Cycloids of Ceva*.

Michael Schultheis
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