

GREG LETSON : PICTORAE SIMPLEX

About mid-way through 2014, I experienced a series of small epiphanies that gave me glimpses of what was to become a new direction for my visual art. I felt the urge to make small, simple pictures with a reductive syntax and an emphasis on structure.

Like my previous work, the images were to be 'discovered' in the process of making them with no planning or pre-visualization. And along with seeking simplicity, I also was interested in stretching my personal vocabulary of visual language to allow for the discovery of images that were outside of my imagination. For me, this would mean working counter-intuitively at times to make works that sat between my sense of the familiar and the foreign in their form, structure and schemata. Willfully, I hoped for each piece to be anomalous yet not bizarre, adroit yet not cunning and evocative but not instructive. These paintings are selected works from my first year of this exploration.

The digital "paintings" included in this show are part of the same series of work as the oil paintings, but were made on a computer with digital paint and graphic design software. They share the same considerations as their oil-based cousins, yet they differ through their execution. And while they have a degree of 'painterliness' about them, the digital images also bear the smooth patina and sharp edges of visual electronica, which looked awkward to me at first. But as I continued onwards, the characteristics that bothered me about them at first have become much of what I admire about them now.