

## **Artist Statement- “Spinning Away”**

While studying for my MFA at University of North Carolina from 1980-1982, a fellow student introduced me to large scale paintings, which I then made throughout my career. I find that a large painting can have as much intimacy as a small piece, so in a sense size is relative. “Spinning Away” can be viewed at various angles intimately up-close or from a distance, for multiple experiences.

More often than not, I like to begin a painting with dark earth tones at the bottom of the painting, and then let it arise into light. This piece grows from earth to sky. Each of the three 84 x 36 inch panel of the triptych was started horizontal to the floor propped on gallon paint cans. I worked one panel at a time, which could involve additional applications in some areas, placing them upright and abutted together as necessary so there is a connection. Each panel was saturated with incised primitive drawing into the thick wet “Mud”. After intuiting and drawing the grid pattern, the piece led me to layer the 32 lighter 12 x 12 inch squares over the surface. Each square required consideration of palette and thickness in each layer. I like the fact that glyphs in the underpainting are perceptible, like ghosts, and help pull the painting together.

I then drew the grid for the small pearlescent squares, the size of which is definitely determined by the architectural structure, and is intuitive like the larger grid. Leaving the graphite grid lines of varying lengths imparts an honesty in the process. Before applying the pearl iridescent paint, I need to achieve a smooth surface on each small square, which requires workmanlike precision using painters tape and applying several layers of paint, each of which is sanded.

This painting is constructed of seventy-two 12 x 12 inch paintings, organically united as one. "Spinning Away" is contained, although this particular grid simultaneously implies infinite expansion. The title is from the song *Spinning Away* by Brian Eno and John Cale.