



As a result of my personal studies of NeoPlasticism, based on the work of Piet Mondrian, I've developed my own Abstract Image theory. My theory is called E.M.P. (Extracted Monochromatic Portrayal).

# ABSTRACT ART

The designing of a **distinctive** style of painting whose rationale, **meaning**, and emotional **content** depend solely on the essential nature of the object's **form**.

## **Background**

Gary Leigh Coles, born in May of 1967, started drawing hard edge abstract pencil drawing at the age of 16; most of them still remain intact and can be viewed on his own personal Art CD.

Discovery of self came at an early age and understanding of self came through his discovery of art. High school years and early college were full of wild swirls on top of hard edge designs. With the end of college and the early 90's came more self revelation through art. At this time, his paintings were becoming gray and muddy and often dark. Instead of fighting with all the colors and conflicts he made a conscious decision to eliminate all colors except the primary colors and black & white. This evolution became the birth of "E.M.P." - his own color theory that is evident in all of this work and in his digital art work. The theme & theory of "E.M.P." can be best explained as follows:

### **E.M.P. (Extracted Monochromatic Portrayal)**

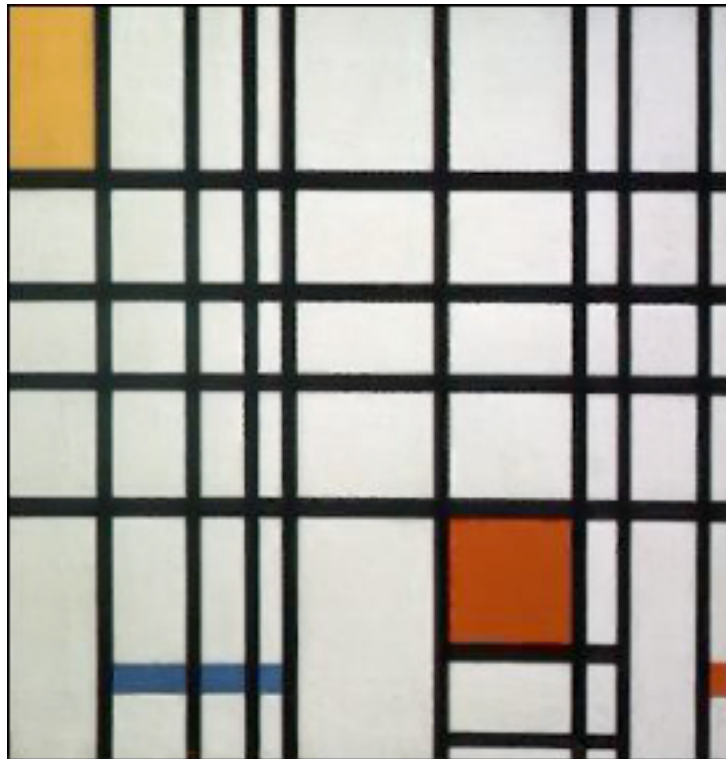
E.M.P. is my own language, based on the founding principles of NeoPlasticism, created by Piet Mondrian. That is the ideological base. From there I developed my own Visual way of thinking & seeing & creating. The process of creating is the most important element of my work.

I begin with a colored image or scene and physically and/or electronically remove all of the color elements. Then I recapture the essence of the image or scene by rebuilding it within a limited black & white framework.

Next I add an unrelated, random color to that black & white extracted image. The color neither defines the image nor its purpose; it serves to enhance the composition as a whole.

This is the Extracted Monochromatic Portrayal process. I have extracted the essence of the image, by monochromatically coloring a previously full colored image. The final product is the Portrayal – my own representation of the original.

**Sample of Piet Mondrian's work.**



## **Artist Statement**

After several years of study & work I have finally found a name for the style of work that I have been creating. In short it is "E.M.P." which stands for Extracted Monochromatic Portrayals. It is partially based on the Piet Mondrian theory of "Neoplasticism." All of my work is based on my beliefs & theories on what should take place while creating an image. I often see the final image in my head before I even create it, which is great! That way I know if I have reached my objective.

I never try to overwhelm the viewer with too much unrelated information. I do not like to confuse the eye of my viewer. I prefer to capture their eye with great design and object placement; not with confusing imagery. I believe the final image should be based in well formed technique and theory. When the viewer can read my theory and see how it relates to the art work, I know I have succeeded!

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