

**COLOR SYMMETRY
IN CONTEMPORARY WESTERN ART**

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The painting proposed for exhibition at the Third Interdisciplinary Symmetry Congress and Exhibition is considered an extension of this writer's lecture titled "Color Symmetry in Navajo and Contemporary Western Art". Thus, it is an example of contemporary Western art produced as a result of theoretical, experiential, and visual study of color and symmetry found in both Navajo and Western art.

Inner Constellation, the painting to be displayed, was created and installed as part of a collaborative exhibition (1993) by Glen Peterson and Bonny Stauffer titled "Sky Blue Earth". In this show, Peterson's art mainly expressed an essence of sky, while Stauffer's work reflected that of earth. The exhibition was created as a result of each artist working independently and later combining their paintings into dynamic new expressions of nature. Peterson's abstract sky paintings showed subtle illusion of open, expansive space. Stauffer's earth pieces stressed texture and surface qualities. During the installation process a common, dominant metaphor of color was revealed: blue. In Peterson's art blue acted as a metaphor for the pervasiveness of sky or cosmic space; Stauffer's use of blue expressed surface reflection of that space. In both artists' works, blue was balanced by variations of other colors of the fundamental triad. Collectively, then, the paintings in this exhibition stressed symmetrical color interaction in concert with dynamic symmetrical configurations.

Inner Constellation is an integration of six small paintings (9" x 12") by each artist to complete a twelve-piece arrangement of acrylic and mixed-media paintings. Experimentation was essential to the process of configuring the finished individual works into an expanded whole which expresses a personal interpretation of natural symmetry and asymmetry perceived in the southwestern landscape. Light and color in the final arrangement reveal universal conceptions of dynamic symmetry and holistic asymmetry found in natural phenomena.

Specifications of the object of art to be exhibited:

Title: *Inner Constellation*
Artists: Glen Peterson and Bonny Stauffer
Date: 1993
Media: Acrylic and mixed media on canvas
Size: 40" x 42"
Congress category: Aesthetics of man-made constructions