



Gravitortional Equanimetry

42" x 57.5"

oil, black ink and autumn leaves on canvas, 2006

This one is easily the most Cosmological of my paintings. Dobson's class influences are involved here, weaved into its details, from working on this after and during my first classes taught by by him: telescope making class, and cosmology, both courses held at the Randall museum during the same time as I worked on this painting.

This is one of my works that developed as I went along — its details not premeditated in advance.

It does have the underlying structure based on a piece from 1989, "Future

Look at the Past”, a cosmic yet earthy and very autumnal experimental piece from my art college years. It is the same scale, similar division, and with real autumn leaves embedded around a specific section of the perimeter. I could have experimented with the arrangement of those elements more, but somehow stuck with it.



Future Look at the Past
1989, oil and autumn leaves on canvas
42" x 57.5"

I liked it, wanting to make a series ; just not for another 16 years later! This first painting started to feel like a prototype when viewing it years later after pulling it out of the stacks of oldies. This newer piece has the same frame work of leaves as the first, only crafted in a neater manner. The 1989 work was cranked out under a week. This renewed one of '06 had a few months of

attention, working fresh ideas into details and textures that made it interesting at a close proximity as well as from a distance.

I had a good, explorative time working and reworking and refining the surface and geometry, adding astronomical details (yes, that's supposed to be an eye reflected in a secondary mirror!) Plus I added various ink drawings as an unusual media mix coming from me.



Vertigo

2015

oil and autumn leaves on canvas

42" x 57.5"

The third and final of the autumn leaves series has an entirely different meaning, with the prominent figure on the ledge; its title and figure was

ripped off — or should I say genuinely inspired from — the ending scene of the movie *Vertigo*. It started as a more Cosmological painting, with the large depiction of the galaxy M33 to the right. Then personally shaking news in 2015 moved me to express loss, changing its direction as my final large scale painting, ever.

You can see the similarities and differences, and *Gravitortional Equanimetry* is the stronger and more invested of the three.

The featured piece was purchased a few years ago by Alane Levy of the Boston area.

Dean Gustafson, August 2021





