

Artist's Statement

Michael Maas

These "Alhambra Series" paintings are a branch of an on-going series which I began in July 1997.

The name refers to the Islamic Palace Fortress of that name in Grenada, Spain, which was a major source of inspiration for the artist M.C. Escher.

Each painting is based on a "building block unit" of two simple shapes nestled against each other. This unit may be repeated several times, or dozens, or even hundreds of times.

My goal with these paintings is to create images which do suggest a feeling, but are "open-ended" enough to allow each viewer to experience these feelings in his or her own personal, and sometimes unexpected, way. The emotional responses expressed by viewers of this work has ranged from maternal to religious to sexual, and seems to cut across most of the usual boundaries of age, culture or education.
