

Religion, Science, and Art Meet Meta-Art

Religion and science are often considered to contradict each other and as being hard to mix. However, religion and science are both trying to understand the world around us and explain why life and the universe exist, so it is hard to imagine that they can exist without each other. Indeed, the famous physicist, Albert Einstein, used to say that science without religion is lame, and religion without science is blind. Art can open a “communication portal” between religion and science, bringing them and gluing them together, by presenting life in its various manifestations. I believe the exhibition of Anatoly Golobokov gives another example of this unity, like the Holy Trinity in Christianity. Many of Anatoly’s works are inspired by religious motifs, but they are also driven by his efforts to understand humanity and life, through advanced concepts of fractals and sacred geometries.

When I first saw Anatoly working on his pictures, a very recent idea came to my mind. Together with my colleagues and students, we are working on the so-called metamaterials, man-made structures composed of small (subwavelength) elements that allow control of and change to macroscopic properties of materials. “Meta” is a Greek word that means “beyond”, and this relative new concept underpins a range of recent discoveries in physics. What Anatoly does is somewhat similar: he takes small “elements” of stones with their “personality” and unusual patterns and combines them in a very clever and skilful way, thus creating impressive images with deep meaning. His approach is based on the power of Nature that produces stones of enormous colours and patterns. This type of art is much deeper than Roman and Florentine mosaics, and it can be called “meta-art” with Anatoly being recognised as the “meta-artist”



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