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Painting Music : When Synaesthesia reveals the color of sounds.

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ABSTRACT (Calibri Capital letters Bold 10 pt)

My contribution will focus on the representation of the color of sounds.More than 15 years ago, I discovered the musicality of landscapes, and the question of the colored space of music quickly arose. Since then, I've been trying to understand how music affects my senses as a painter. Listening, I realize that musical emotion is colorful and abstract.
When I paint, I look for the colors on the palette that give me the emotion of a chord, a note or a musical phrase. The structure and composition of the music play an important role in the composition of the painting. I discover music, I listen to it in a different way, its universe seems immense, inescapable, abstract. If the risk is that of chaos, whether sensory or intellectual, and if the questions are jostling about the relationships between colors, forms, sounds and harmonies, finally a pictorial vocabulary of music emerges or rather imposes itself.
How can we represent music, its sounds, harmonies, instruments and composition? Why music in the landscape? How can we express these colorful, musical emotions in painting? To answer these questions, I propose to present the process of creating colorful scores: M. Ravel's “La Valse” (2025 is his 150th anniversary), F. Liszt's “Vol d'Oiseaux”, and “La Cheffe d'orchestre” playing Beethoven.
The conference will also be an opportunity to explore her musical painting titled ”Conversation with Picasso on Music”, based on ”Carmen Fantasy” by Spanish composer Pablo de Sarasate. This piece is a more narrative work depicting Picasso’s arrival in Paris, blending abstraction and figuration.
In recent years, Gabrielle Thierry has explored the musical space of landscapes in places such as Paris, the Alps, Italy, Norway, Tunisia, and New York. She is regularly invited to conferences on synesthesia and the colors of sound while also leading numerous workshops on “Painting Music.”

Keywords : art, music, painting, colour of sounds, chromatic harmony, colored sensation, landscape

Authors Biography
As a painter, my artistic research focuses on the representation of landscapes and their musicality. I have developed the "Color Scores," which depict the spatial dimension of music on canvas, making it visible. This work of interpreting music is both spontaneous and connected to cognitive mechanisms and an intuitive logic. Inspired by composers such as Bach, Schubert, Ravel, Stravinsky, and Gershwin, I explore the colors of sound.
Since 2009, I have been regularly invited to conferences and discussions on the convergence of the arts. These lectures are sometimes accompanied by painting workshops on the visual representation of music, emphasizing the perception of music through color and introducing participants to synesthesia.
After studying Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Sciences (ESIEA, Paris, 1990), I pursued drawing and painting at the Ateliers du Carrousel and Atelier Poussin (Paris, 1992-2017). My paintings, musical interpretations, exhibitions, and publications can be explored at www.gabriellethierry.com.

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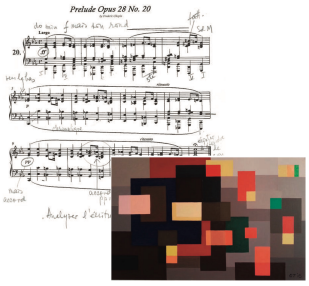
Partition Colorée de « La Valse » de Ravel - Huile sur Toile – 100x300cm – ©GabrielleThierry.com

The (female) conductor playing Beethoven
Oil on canvas, 160x140cm , 2021 (Video)



Conversation with Picasso on Music,
Oil on canvas, 165x130cm, 2021 (Video)