

## **Artist Statement**

“Emulations of Jazz” was initiated in July of 2002. In this series of paintings, I attempt to express a broad range of painterly textures and processes from the use of very thin glazes and the dripping of paint to a number of different impasto arrangements and the raking of paint as well. In spite of the wide repertoire of approaches, only four different textures are ever used in any one composition. While varying the textures, I likewise take different approaches with the ideas of color, thus broadening the scope of the thesis.

Therefore, “Emulations of Jazz” is more of an intellectual attempt at articulating the creative approaches to jazz music. Just as the listener is frequently exposed only to instrumental compositions of rich, multi-faceted themes, I too set out to create compositions that challenge the viewer to interpret similar ideas of improvisation, syncopation, polyrhythm and harmony through the realm of the visual elements of design. In part, I address the actual space within the picture plane just as a musician might compile the various notes with concern for temporal space in a particular tune. And just as the overall harmony of a musical composition holds the idea together, the principle of balance serves as a gestalt to unify the various textures, colors and values within each painting of this series.

So for your gratification, I offer “Emulations of Jazz” for your enjoyment and appreciation. And although it is a relatively young series, I anticipate that they will yield very prolific numbers. I hope you enjoy viewing them as much as I have enjoyed producing them.

**Richard Ward**