
RESILIENCE



... HOW CAN ART ENRICH OUR PERSPECTIVES



The birth of a series: Kintsugi



Kintsugi, comes from the Japanese Kin (gold) and Tsugi (joinery) "golden joinery". It's an ancestral technique, back to the 15th century in Japan, it consists in repairing broken porcelains or ceramics using lacquer dusted with gold powder. (source Wikipedia, photo: By Haragayato - Personal work)



I was inspired by this ancestral art to evoke the Canal du Midi and especially its plane trees. Indeed, the Kintsugi applies to objects, but it can be a metaphor for any survival to injury, aggression. The tree-lined vault of the Canal is affected by a disease and hundreds of trees are cut down, drastically altering the local landscape.

I represented these "wounds" in my painting by pattern breaks in some areas. Left blank, these "pieces of landscape" remain to be invented ...

There is also a message of hope behind the Kintsugi: the scars, far from disfiguring the object, will sublimate it.

Once glued together, the cracks will be coated with gold and will bring another aesthetic dimension to the object, which will become unique and will only have more value.



This is the message I want to convey through this series.



Video: application of gold leaf on the mixture.

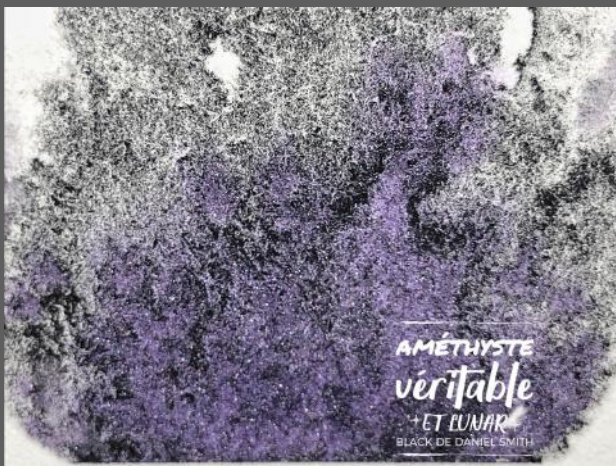
The "gaps" in the plane tree motifs are partly completed, recreated with 22-carat gold leaf.

The application of the leaves is very delicate, almost meditative. Gold chips are infinitely light as leaves in the wind.

In this way, the breaks in the landscape, far from being hidden, are highlighted by gold.

The imperfection of the patterns creates balance in the painting, such as the alternation of voids and solids, smooth and rough, matte and glossy ...

Each piece in this series is unique.



The material is mainly provided by pigments based on real stones such as amethyst, sodalite or zoisite and natural black pigment. Vegetable, mineral, water and metal merge to create a dreamlike landscape. As in the Kintsugi, the Canal du Midi will be different after it's disease, but it will be nonetheless beautiful and precious, it is this resilience that I wanted to evoke.

*Today the news pushes me to watch this series
with a new angle:*



Are we not currently facing a profound upheaval in our immediate outlook on life? We face change and uncertainty. The present moment is a refuge, it is the foundation of our vision for tomorrow, and it is exactly at this time that our choices reside.

**"Perspectives of change and change
of perspectives ..."**



These paintings represent hope for me in the face of change.

From a torn, changing landscape, the metaphor of the Kintsugi allows us to see a renewal in it. Isn't this what we see emerging in parallel with this pandemic? The hope of a more nature-friendly, more harmonious world, of a more humane society, focused on sharing, consideration and mutual aid?

We are realizing our fragility, our humanity, all at the same time in the world. What will change? Are we all going to change the way we live? Certainly not all. But for many of us, haven't we already learned from these weeks of confinement? About ourselves and our relationship to the world, both social and vegetal?

Realizing that we are fragile, in a balance that is beyond us, and that in the end we don't know much, wouldn't that be a beginning of wisdom?

"We, too, have the choice to treat our scars and make them our strengths and beauties of tomorrow."

Injuries, scars and tears will be born from this time of Covid 19, that's for sure. Like a Japanese craftsman composing a new object from the cracks he has in his hands, we too have the choice to treat our scars and withdraw something new from them. To make the marks of an experience, which, in one way or another, will have changed us.



Today through these words "take care of yourself", could we not see an incentive to consider and welcome these changes that are taking place in us?

To recognize our wounds and sprinkle them with gold powder, little by little, to make them our strengths, our beauties of tomorrow?

I think if we listen to what's going on inside us, from time to time, a little bit every day, we can see that time transform us and change our perspectives. We can see that we learn a little more about ourselves every day. Isn't that precious?

*By adapting the thinking carried by the art of Kintsugi to our lives, I believe we have the opportunity to turn the time we are in, that time we missed so much , **into gold** .*

So take care of yourself, how you feel, your time, stay at home (a little more ...) and answer me, let's share to go further ...

See you soon.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Ali', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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