The eye recognizes light of different colors. Physics explains the sensory stimulus light through electromagnetic waves or by photons (elementary particles). With the help of physics, for example, we can better understand the polar light. In addition to physics, physiology and psychology are also involved if we want to understand the effect of colors on humans.

My painting "Steps to the sea" was inspired by a bathing staircase at the middle pier in Wyk auf Föhr (at the German North Sea coast). Many observations in different weather, wind directions, water levels, sometimes with larger waves, sometimes with smaller waves, led me to my interpretation.



Steps to the sea, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 cm



Northern lights, Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 70 cm

A very special light source is the Aurora Borealis or northern light, it has magical appeal. Painting this glow was a big challenge.

I like to show my pictures at exhibitions and offer them for sale. In addition, there are drawings, graphics, lectures, system analysis and concept development.

more info at: <u>www.harrydrewes.de/en</u> email: hwdrewes@online.de



Detail of my painting "Northern lights"



Harry Drewes Painter and Physicist



As a physicist, I worked in the development department of a Hamburg-based company. My areas of specialization included optics and color recognition. After privately attending a taster course on the basics of painting in the last few years of my life as an employee, I could not let go of this art. Photo: Tomas Keilbach

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Now I am a physicist and a painter in one person. What do they have in common these different disciplines?

Both need creativity and intuition. Both revolve around the concept of symmetry but also around the deviations from the symmetry, which make it really exciting.



Color patches could be called elementary particles of painting, created by brushstrokes of different sizes and directions. They interact with each other. Size, direction, interaction: So in the description of painting terms appear, which are also used in physics.

What does not exist in painting is the measurement proof of the correctness (or refutation) of a theory. But like the artist, the theoretical physicist must continue to think ahead, not knowing whether there will be confirmation for him, because it sometimes doesn't come until decades later. So physicist and Nobel laureate Paul Dirac said, somewhat exaggerated: "It's more important to have beauty in his equations than to match the experiment."





Harry Drewes lives and works in Hamburg and came about photography and drawing to painting. In 2008 he began private painting studies with Ute Reichel in Hamburg and on the island of Sylt. In 2011 he focused on painting and exhibited periodically in and around Hamburg. His pictures are painted with acrylic on canvas and open space between reality and imagination. He loves motifs with harbor corners, as well as natural landscapes and flowers. The colors themselves play a major role for him. Various fine brush strokes build interwoven areas of interacting colors, giving something shimmering to the paintings. In his current works he explores the space between realism and abstraction and uses color patches to create images which the viewer himself can compose into landscapes.



Summer day, Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 80 cm

The painting "Summer day" I started outside at the easel, but to get finished it needed many hours of painting in the studio. The shown picture details with color patches are from this painting. Salt marshes form the transition between sea and land in tidal waters and represent biodiversity for nature and exciting color transitions for the painter. The desire to paint salt marsh arose spontaneously, during a walk in the dike foreland of Wremen at the Wurster Nordseeküste in northern Germany.



Salt marsh, Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 60 cm