

## Atmospheres, Proportions and Harmonies: Form and Colour in the work of J.M.W. Turner

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### Abstract

In an artistic context, harmony is firstly understood theoretically and conceptually; secondly, the analysis of 'harmonious proportions' is most commonly focused on geometry and the debates on whether it is a conscious or an unconscious process, leaving the associations of those proportions to principles completely unaddressed. The paper connects the two spheres, geometry to harmony principles, through the analysis of a case study found in the artworks of J.M.W. Turner's. Turner's work was chosen for his use of the landscape in the communication of values and timeless principles; an example of the hidden geometric orders and colour properties that define the language of artistic imagery. Analyzing form through geometry and colour in multiple of his works, allowed for the definition of commonalities, uncovering the inherent properties and underlying principles that define his complex atmospheric and harmonious creations. Findings show, that all the principles are interconnected and there is a correlation between all of his works, even if they appear to be different: a kind of DNA structure of Turner's atmospheric creations emerged. Furthermore, the results show that the geometrical and colour characteristics that define the atmospheric work of art are closely linked to the harmonious universal principles; not only are they important, but they are intrinsically connected, without which the principles could not have been communicated. Geometrical connections and colour harmonies, in Turner's case, are indeed responsible for the emergence of significant, harmonious universal principles.

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