

Anna Chupa

Artworks: TILINGS



Abstract:

Tilings integrates 2D space, structured with fivefold symmetries inspired by Islamic “girih” tilings, and digital photographic materials drawn from Spanish Mudejar architectural details along with floral and other biological forms (e.g., fungus, lichen, seed heads, turtles and insects). Complex scenes digitally montaged then set into the tiling structure, create nonperiodic patterns exploring the interplay of photographic details visible in close-up views with abstract geometric forms that these details dissolve into at typical viewing distances.

Theoretically these patterns could tile infinitely without translationally symmetrical repetitions. This ties in with the metaphorical use of geometry in Islamic tiling to express divine infinity. The use of water, reflection and light in Islamic architectural space dematerializes form effectively as much as the elaborate tilings, screens and muqarnas. In this way, the individual patterns developed for *Tilings* are consistent with the aesthetic observed in Spanish Mudejar architecture.

Topic: Art

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Other influences from medieval Islamic Spain include the emphasis placed on botanical studies and the importance of palace gardens. Hence, the use of floral material as subject matter, coupled with architectural details celebrates Andalusia but stops short of exact imitation through translating form into geometry that is itself a transformation removed from the historical instances of girih tilings.



References:

[1] Lu, Peter J., and Paul J. Steinhardt.

"Decagonal and Quasi-crystalline Tilings in Medieval Islamic Architecture." *Science* 315 (2007): 1106- 1110

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