

SYMPHONIC THOUGHTS

In this series the underlying images are photographic pieces that I have previously shown in exhibits internationally. Each photograph has been substantially transformed, just as our central nervous system transforms visual memories into complex neuronal networks and interconnections.

While working at the Mayo Clinic, I asked one of the EEG (brain wave) technicians to do my EEG. I had a list of artistic topics to think about during the recording. These thought-specific EEG tracings were used in this series. Five lines of the recorded 12 channels were used, in keeping with the number of lines on sheet music. Musical “notes” (actually barbs from barbed wire) were applied to the EEG tracings. A specific musical score was used for the placement of the barbs. The compositions included pieces by Bach, Bartok, Ciurlionis, Handel, and Stravinsky.

During a trip to Toronto, Canada, I visited High Park, where I grew up. In the zoo the fences are topped with rows of barbed wire (is this to keep the animals in, or to keep human predators out?). I photographed several hundred barbs and used these images for the musical “notes” that were placed on my own EEG tracings. You cannot escape your own upbringing—your personality and ideas are formed during growth, and remain in your mind, in your being, like entangled barbed wire.

The first exhibit of Symphonic Thoughts quite appropriately took place at the Ciurlionis National Museum of Art in Kaunas, Lithuania. Just as Ciurlionis did, in this series I am incorporating music into visual art.

This series of works consists of large format pigmented ink prints on canvas (54 x 148 inches). A Hewlett Packard plotter was used for printing.

