

Magda Cebokli

Exhibition Catalogue:
An Analysis of Variance

6 August - 4 September 2016



Langford 120
120 Langford St
Nth Melbourne VIC
Langford120.com.au

An Analysis of Variance

"A general procedure for partitioning the overall variability in a set of data into components due to specific causes and random variation."

Oxford Concise Dictionary of Mathematics 1996 Oxford University Press NY

The quest for certainty and for universal laws to explain the universe we inhabit has characterised the history of scientific thinking. Logic, rationality, evidence have been the values underpinning this search. Through the Renaissance and the Enlightenment and into the modern age, this trajectory continued to unfold supporting a world view of underlying consistencies and predictabilities.

The developments in quantum mechanics however raised questions, significant doubts about this ever being achievable. Likewise, theorising in complex systems and the associated mathematics cast doubts on prediction of the specific. Perhaps we now have to accept that all knowledge has a probability statement attached and that the best we can ever hope for is the identification of patterns or systems of consistency.

Order and chaos seem to be the twin poles between which stretches the tightrope on which we all dance. Scientific research methodology has developed a set of strategies for dealing with the omnipresence of complexity and uncertainty, both at the experimental design stage and at the stage of data treatment. There are methods for controlling for chance, for the intrusion of extraneous factors, for finding consistencies and clusters within large masses of figures.

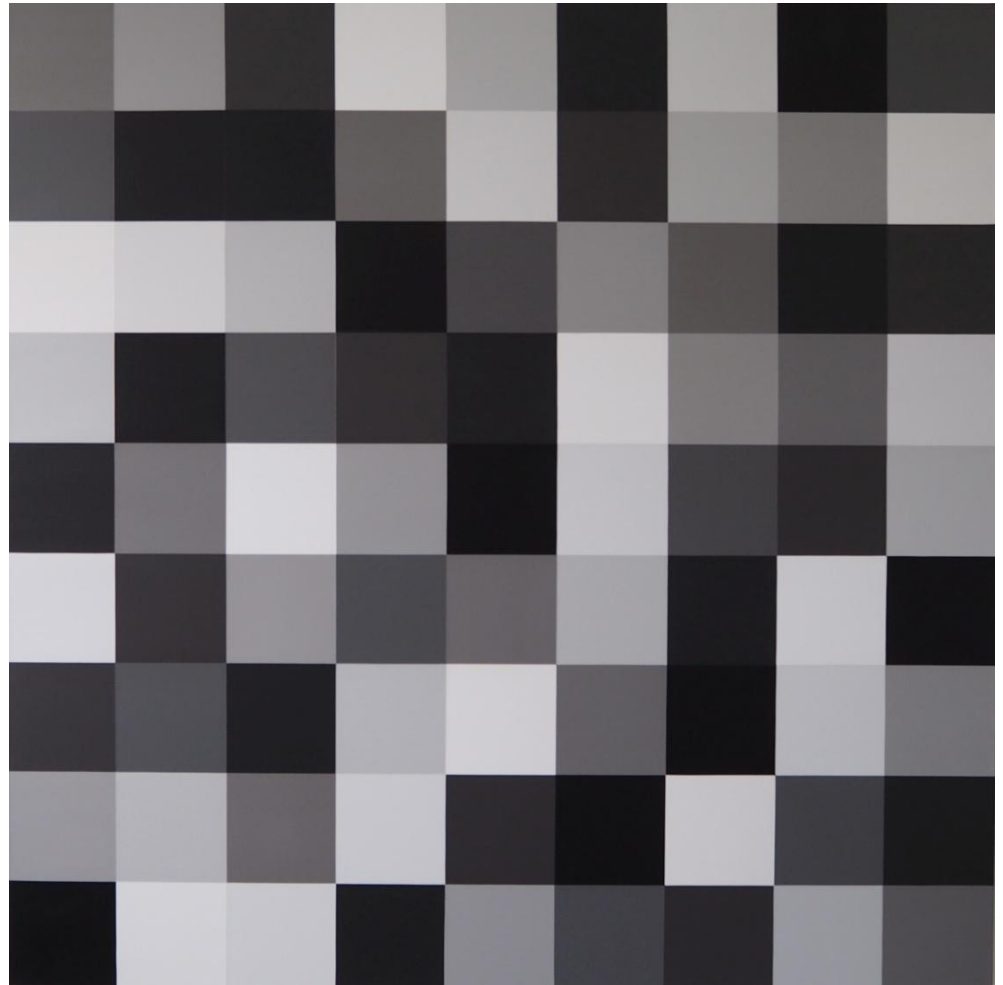
Nor is the exploration of chance a new area of investigation in the arts. In the visual arts Ellsworth Kelly, Gerhard Richter, Francois Morellet have all worked on this theme. The Surrealists felt that chance was a gateway to exploring the unconscious. John Cage used it to create music.

Randomness and the operation of varying probabilities has also featured in my own work in recent years. This current series of paintings based on the Latin Square, is a continuation of work inspired by the contemplation of the relationship between structure and chance, constraint and diversity.

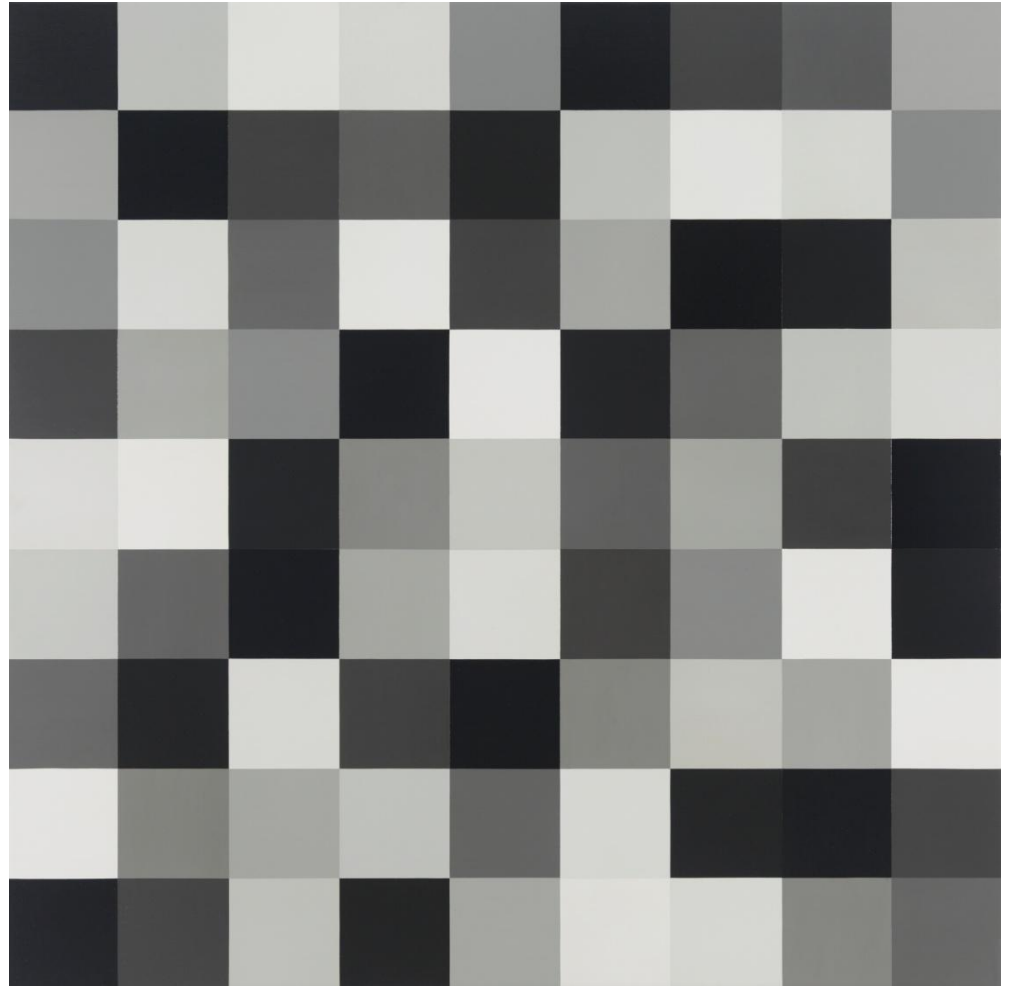
The Latin Square has a history of usage in experimental design. It is a grid constructed so that the cell contents within it vary within each row and column, each condition appearing only once in each row and column. In this series of paintings, the Latin Squares are further structured. They follow a Geretche framework in that the 9x9 square is further sectioned into 9 sets of spaces, each space containing 9 units. Although the content is decided by the artist the distribution of the content across the cells is determined by an algorithm. Logic rather than aesthetic or intuitive judgement determines the how the content comes together.

So much structure, yet so much potential for variation.

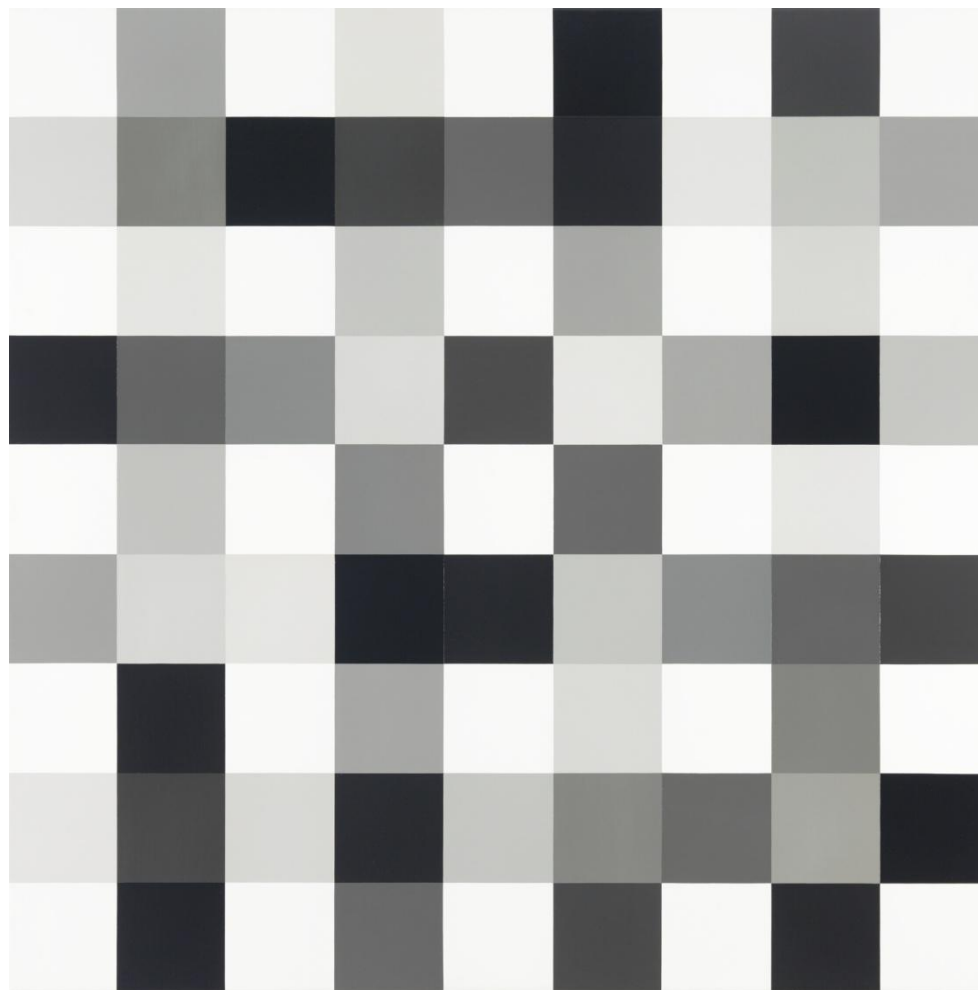
Sample #1
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



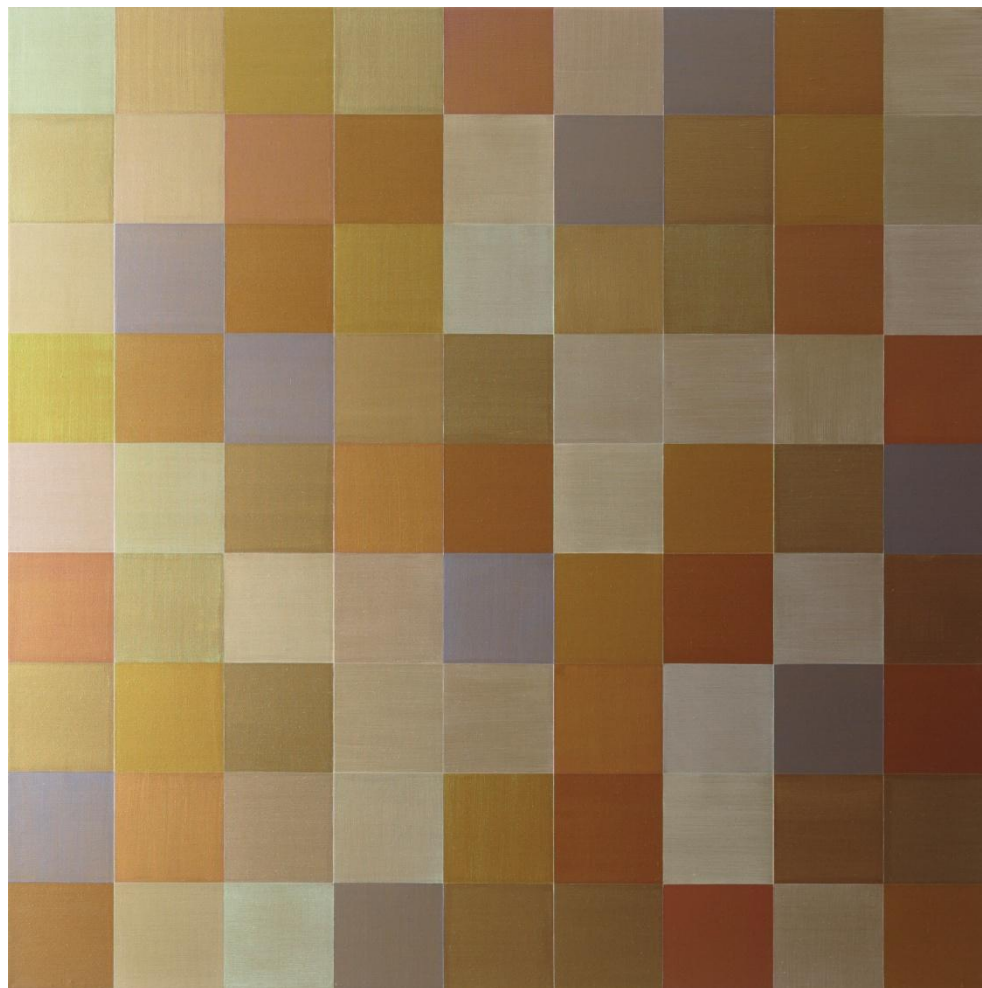
Sample #2
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



Partial Sample
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



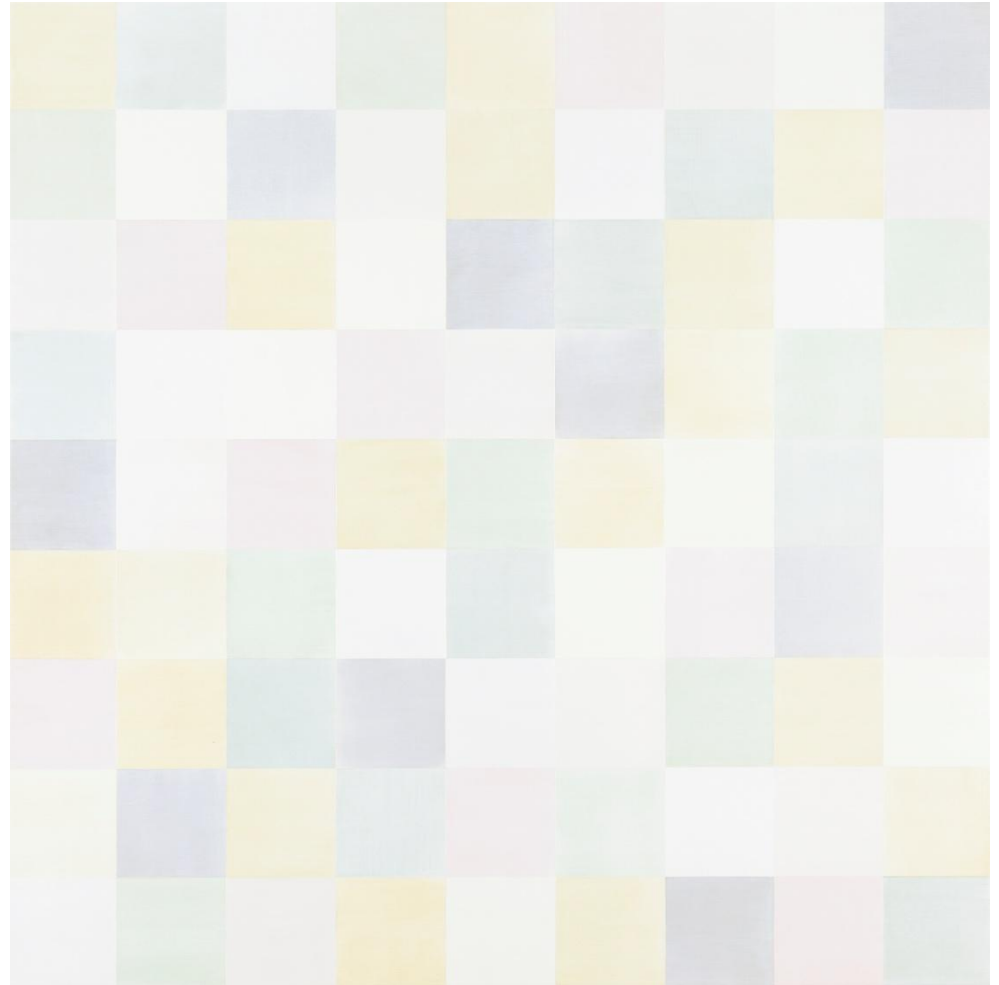
Bronzewing
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



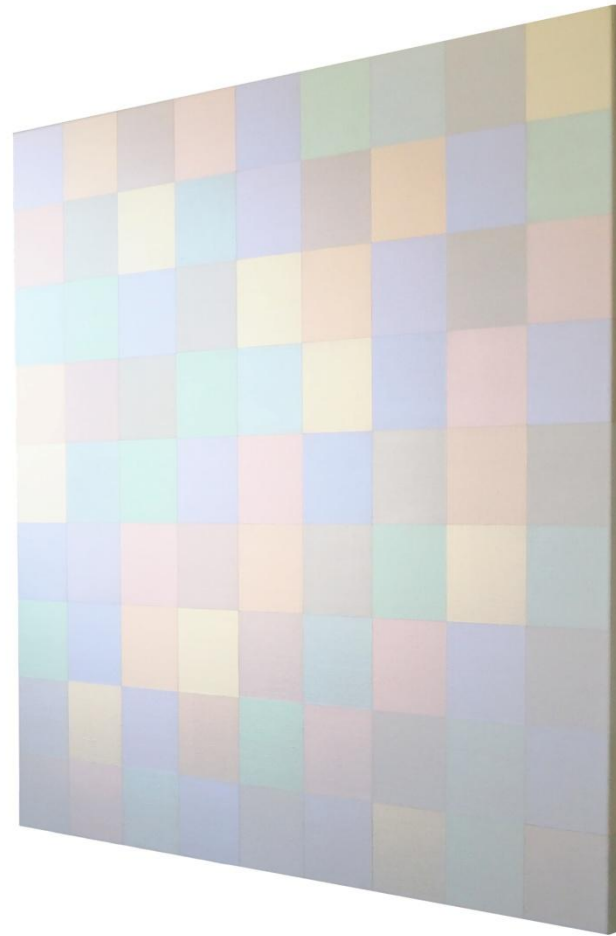
Bronzeing (side view)
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



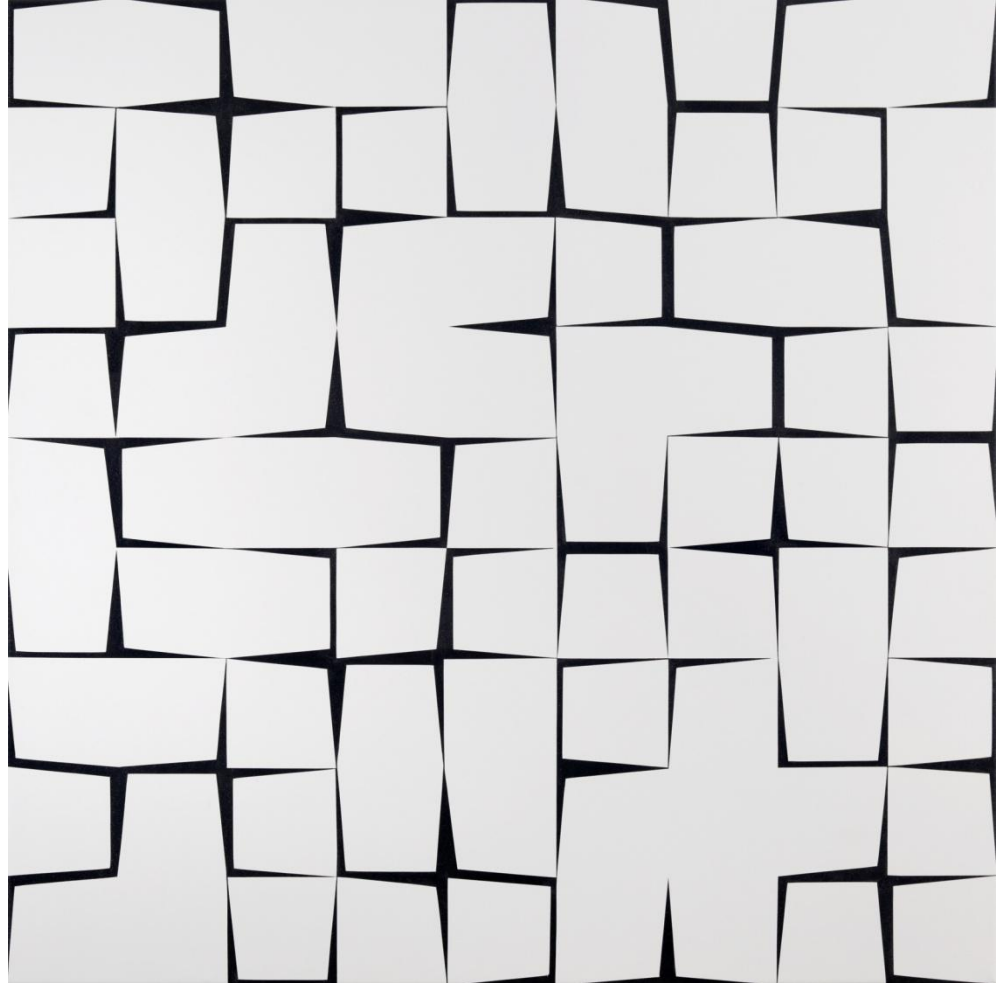
Opallios
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



Opallios (side view)
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



Fractured
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



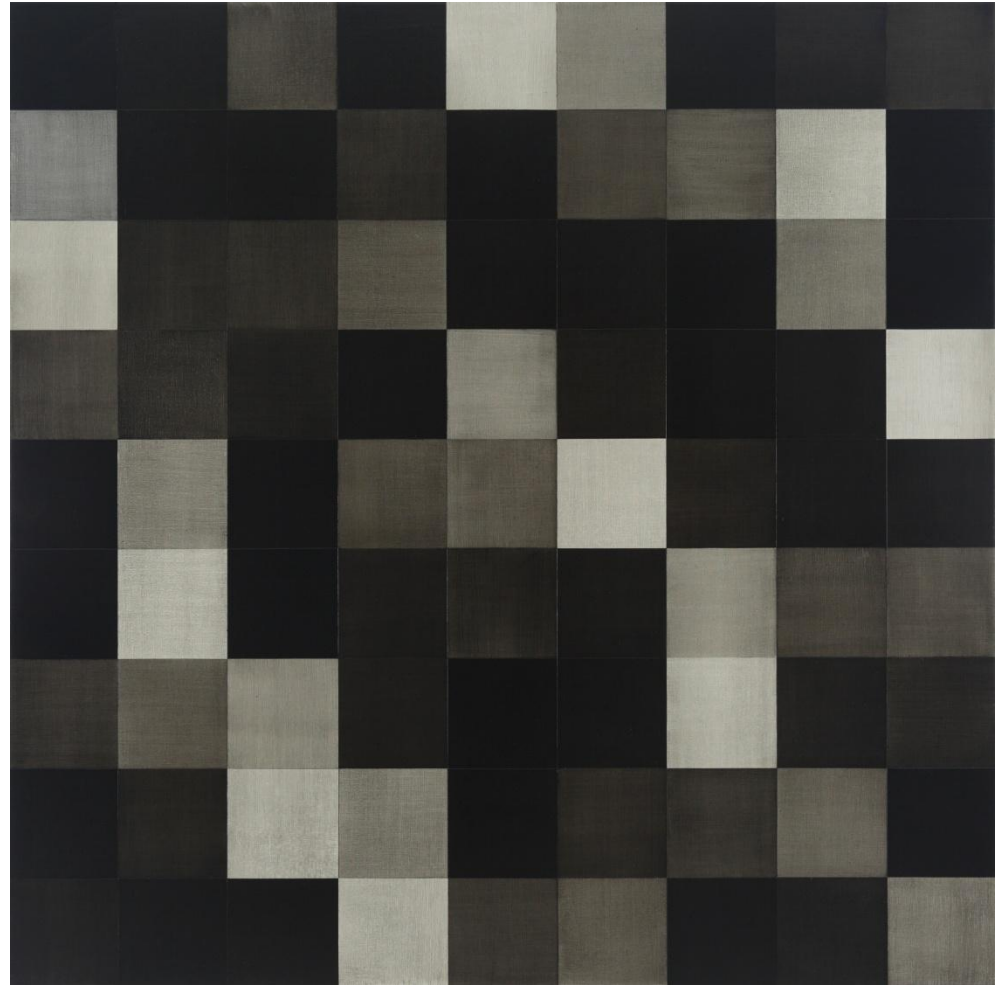
Night Shade
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



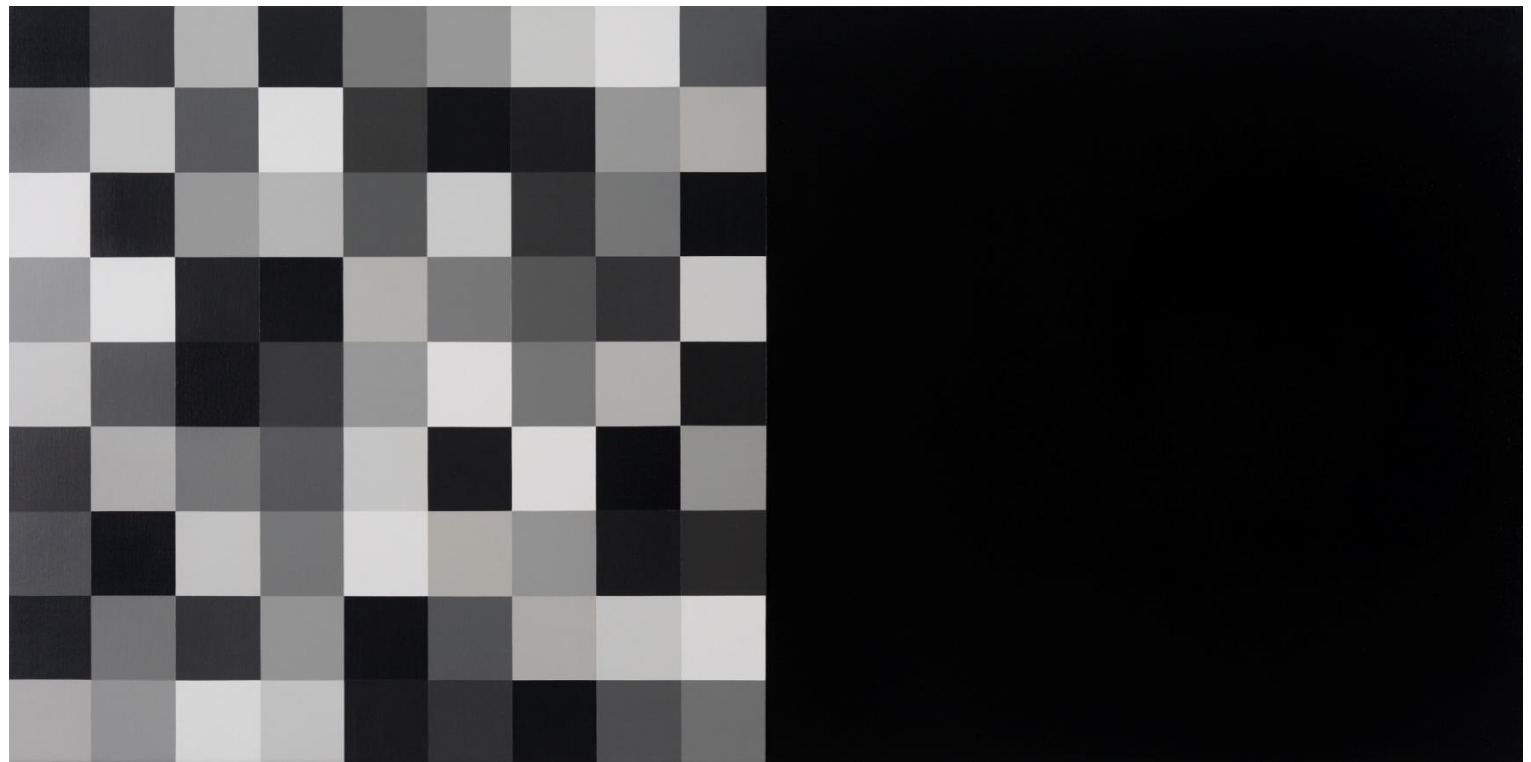
Kati Thanda Field Study
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



Black Rain
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



Tabula Rasa
2016
Acrylic on Linen
100cm x 100cm



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