

Information about “Is Anyone Listening Out There ?” by Leighton Scott

“Is Anyone Listening Out There” is one of the unique surfaces Leighton has created using a base of Z-Ment adhesive and by adding other materials. Many of his works have a pleasant and minimalist look from a distance, which works well as part of room decor. But when the surfaces are examined closely by a viewer, great complexity is revealed.

In this painting, Leighton used multiple layers of adhesive mortar mixed with acrylic paints to create a complex surface that seems to have great depth. The glitter was added in a random pattern to the final wet layer. As the viewing angle changes, the glitter pattern changes. The complex variations in color and perceived depth invite a comparison to actual photos of deep space.

One possible reaction to the painting is looking at the painting is reflected by the title. But other interpretations are also possible. From deep space, has there been intelligent life somewhere that has broadcast some sort of communications? Our world is curious, and astronomers are scanning the heavens for answers.

Leighton is the first known artist to use adhesive mortar as an art medium and has been creating unique surfaces since 1979. As a former NASA scientist, he has created many similar paintings which he calls his “Galaxie” series. He uses that spelling because of his love of the classic Ford Galaxie cars. Galaxie paintings have found homes in several states from coast to coast. One resides at the Hagerstown, MD, VA Clinic where it creates a calmer atmosphere in the therapy office for patients and increases the effectiveness of treatment sessions for veterans with PTSD.