

Headspace

I am often asked, "How do you come up with so many ideas, to be able to think creatively and visualise things imaginatively". A good question and all skills that are important to being an artist. The challenge is interpreting an idea, especially when trying to get inside the mind of another person and when the knowledge of that person is so different to that of my own. My work as an artist, working with scientists, has proven to be fruitful for both parties. We find that our differences in thinking, including the approach and process involved in work methodology are not too dissimilar and this synergy acts as an interesting catalyst for establishing collaborative work.

In the early stages of collaboration the situation can be sensitive, especially when finding common ground or quickly absorbing new knowledge in the quest to respond intelligently, from a non-specialist point of view. As an artist I feel I have an advantage, if words are 'lost' I have my trustworthy sketchpad. I find this to be a wonderful translation device as I ask, "could you just give me a rough diagram of what you just said?" Suddenly words are now transformed and the conversation is illuminated. Sketchpad, whiteboard, iPad, whichever interface allows the communication to flow, with an added bonus of being a visual reference.

My experience, being inspired by, and processing ideas with, a computer scientist is reflected in my work as an artist. Everything is used and reused. This painting shows the discussion on the whiteboard, being in the mind of another person, experimenting with all kinds of methods and material, showing the artist palette (used for this painting) and also, as a means of visual referencing.