Christopher Paul Dean

Artist Statement for “The Art of Math” at The Sun ATL

Repetition is a mathematical act - each mark, unit, and gesture accumulating like a sequence, multiplying to form a structured whole. My practice is built on this principle, where numbers, patterns, and colour systems dictate composition.

In my Signs of Safety: Meditation series, I work with seven safety barrier colourways, making multiple marks over and over again until the final composition emerges. These works follow a set system, yet within this framework, I introduce an element of chance, allowing for unexpected variations. This systematic approach extends to my dowel-based works, where specific heights and colours follow a set logic, reinforcing the relationship between numerical structure and visual rhythm.

Safety symbols, with their readymade patterns and pre-existing colour codes, function as both a visual language and a numerical system within my work. Whether overt or abstracted, these elements repeat and divide, mirroring mathematical principles of order, sequence, and iteration. The result is a practice where numbers and repetition are not just tools but fundamental building blocks—where process and outcome are bound by a logic that is both structured and evolving.

Excerpt from “Mathematics and Art” by Jollanda Shara:

“The relationship between mathematics and art is long standing, with geometry serving as a core principle in artistic composition. From the golden ratio to fractals, artists have relied on mathematical principles to structure and balance their work. Mathematics provides a visual language for artists to explore space, form, and symmetry. These principles guide the artist’s hand, creating harmony in design and allowing for a deeper understanding of the natural world.”

“In many contemporary artistic practices, the act of repetition mirrors mathematical processes. Just as equations involve repeated steps to achieve an outcome, so too does the artist’s process of iteration. Whether through repeated marks, the use of grids, or the division of space, repetition becomes a tool for creating order and meaning, much like the iterations found in mathematical functions”.