Text for “X Sign”, an image featuring color and symmetry

The image was created in the Circle World of the Gargoyle program, version Beta.

Elements of symmetry and choices of color  The image has four axes of symmetry: north-south, east-west, northeast-southwest, and northwest-southeast. Broken concentric rings of color and white form the basis of the painting. A red disk of radius 2 is surrounded by a white ring of radius 3, then a yellow ring of radius 5, then a red ring of radius 7, then a white ring of radius 11, then a yellow ring of radius 13, and finally a red ring of radius 17. Note the primes! The white lines boring diagonally through the paintings, created by painting many small white disks, are intended to decrease the number of axes of symmetry – from an infinite number to four.

Reflection on thought processes of creation  I began with concentric disks, of decreasing size, to obtain concentric rings. The original colors were red - yellow - blue - red - yellow - blue - red - yellow - blue. I then changed the number, sizes, and colors to obtain the red(17) - yellow(13) - white(9) - red(7) - yellow(5) - white(3) - red(2) configuration. I added the white lines vertically and horizontally by boring through the painting with small white disks. As a last touch, I decided to turn the painter prior to painting the white lines – to achieve the diagonal effect. I was pleased with the fact that the white lines and the white disks “interfere” with each other.

Identifying a theme and producing variations  Change the disk colors. Place black borders on the disks, or borders of some other colors. Change the number and thickness of the disks. Change the number of lines. Change the color of lines. Change the lines so that they don’t go through the origin. Change the “focal point” so that the rings are “out of round”.
Text for “Pipes”, an image featurning an integration of design principles and nondeterminism

The image was created in the Square World of the Gargoyle program, version Beta.

**Design principles**  Lay down square “tiles” in a regular way in order to “cover” the surface. Within each square, place a design of some sort. Could be a dot. Could be a plus. Could be another little square, perhaps rotated 45 degrees.

**Nondeterminism**  For this image I placed one of two things within each square “tile”. Either a straight “pipe” going from the middle of one side to the middle of the opposite side, or an right-angle “pipe” going from the middle of one side to the middle of an adjacent side. I thought about changing up colors as well, either of the backgrounds or foregrounds of the tiles. In the end, I decided to keep things simple, with a white background and blue foreground.

**Image description**  The image consists of blue right-angled “pipes” of different shapes, some of which interconnect. The shapes and interconnections are not predictable. I find that the painting has an airy Egyptian feel to it. I find myself interested in exploring the surface for different shapes – and trying to classify them! This may be related to what Marcel Damasi calls “the puzzle instinct” in humans.