

Of spirals and the nature of things

Claudia Kleefeld followed a trail of ideas that led her to some startling revelations

By Rick Romancito

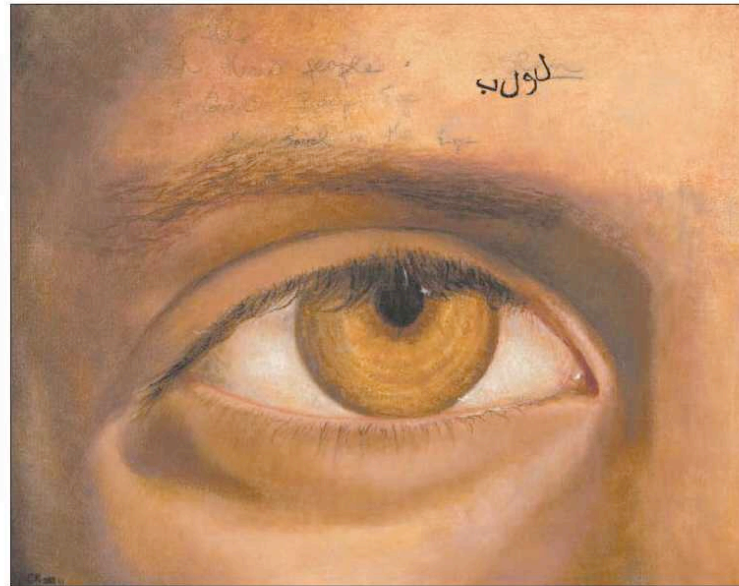
The spiral leads the eye for a reason. One of the symbols that occurs naturally in everything from the nautilus to the tornado to the motion of nebulae in the universe, it has been thought to represent the opposite of a closed loop cycle. It is, instead, a trail that leads infinitely inward or outward, with the appearance of a cycle but stretched out into an open representation of time and endless possibility.

Artist Claudia Kleefeld has been following an idea that occurred to her a few years ago when she began to notice the recurrence of spiral imagery in her work. "But, I wasn't really conscious if what it meant," she said.

Busy with a Chicago show and working on a project that was initially given to ISEA 2012, it is now part of her communications with a number of different venues titled, "Patterns of Nature and Man's Machinery," something that will be a multi disciplinary installation and a project for the future.

Kleefeld gave a talk at ISEA 2012 in Albuquerque, Sept. 24 about her work involving spirals. "Patterns of Nature: The Spiral and Interconnectedness" also is planned to open Dec. 2 at LA Artcore in Los Angeles, Calif.

"I've been working on new pieces for this second installation of the Spiral work exhibit and it will contain some artworks from Chicago ... Another recent development is an article about



'Islamic Boy's Eye,' ca. 2011, oil on linen by Claudia Kleefeld

Courtesy image

the Spiral work and my exhibits written by international spiritual teacher and author Mordechai Gafni that is scheduled to be published later in the year."

In a catalog for "Patterns of Nature," it is stated "For several years, Kleefeld has delved into the meaning and form of the spiral, initially led metaphorically through a dream about melting butterflies. She had been incorporating text into her drawings and paintings: The dream led her to her

vision of the next leg on her never-ending path as an artist."

Kleefeld says that "by invoking the spiral .. I aim to reconnect others and myself to nature, causing a collective remembering of sacred and recurring forms."

Where she is going with this isn't clear, she says, but like the spiral, it continues onward. For more on Kleefeld's work and upcoming exhibitions, visit www.kleefeldart.com.