

HEATHER BAUSE

ARTIST STATEMENT

By focusing on line, form and color, my latest series of paintings are large-scale works on canvas, based on the Stanford-Binet Intelligence Test Picture cards. These hard-edge replica paintings highlight children's innocence and nostalgic beauty, both underscored by a desire to maintain control.

Drawing inspiration from the published classic 1937 Houghton-Mifflin Company plates, I meticulously paint the IQ test material in perfect precision, against retro palette backgrounds using acrylic and enamel on canvas. Reminiscent of psychological perfection in its subject and simplicity, the images are too precise to suggest serenity, yet are not exactly identical to the originals - rather, tension spirals out from these images.

These pieces ask us to consider what the expectation of the viewer should be: they exist in an impossibly beautiful world.

My work originally focused on color theory and was heavily influenced by Minimalism and Agnes Martin in particular. Subsequent series show how my work has grown more representational with time. My last series, titled *The Birds of Music: North American Songbirds*, show a personal underpinning in my art. With my latest series, *Stanford-Binet: The Modern Authority on Identifying Intellectually Deficient Children*, Martin's influence is more apparent, as is my attraction to hard-edge painting.