



THE PAINTED SOUND

The Complete Work Cycle

Klaus Kother • ROX Fashion • TARA Couture • Painted Sound

Introduction — The Painted Sound

“The Painted Sound” is an evolving cycle of sculptural art guitars in which musical instruments become vessels of visual resonance.

Wood, lacquer, metal, pigment, time and traces of use merge into multilayered landscapes of memory, energy, transformation and atmosphere. Each guitar carries its own narrative — not as an illustration of music, but as a materialized trace of rhythm, emotion and lived experience.

What originally began as a limited 15-piece master cycle gradually evolved into an open Gesamtkunstwerk consisting of 24 works and sculptural extensions. The cycle does not follow a linear design principle, but rather an intuitive movement between chaos and control, destruction and refinement, rawness and elegance.

The works move between :

- rock’n’roll and sacred stillness,
- urban energy and natural poetry,
- glamour and decay,
- cosmic abstraction and personal memory.

At the center always lies transformation :

used, damaged or forgotten instruments are not restored, but transformed into new identities — autonomous art objects with their own aura and physical presence.

With the more recent works, the focus increasingly shifts :

from eruptive energy toward depth, resonance, surface, patina and emotional atmosphere. The guitars no longer merely explode or shine — they begin to resonate.

At the same time, the cycle opens itself into real spaces :

hotels, clubs, collections, automotive culture, exhibitions and public encounters become part of the work itself. Art no longer exists in isolation, but in dialogue with people, architecture, music and movement.

“The Painted Sound” therefore should not be understood as a series of decorative instruments, but as a growing visual oratorio : a body of work composed of sound, material, light, symbolism and resonance.

Cycle I – The First Orbit (1–10)

1. Les Paul – The Birth of Chaos
2. Stratocaster – The Dance of Light
3. Akustik – The Memory of Wood
4. Telecaster – The Rust of Time
5. Explorer – The Divine Chaos
6. SG – The Dark Romance
7. Les Paul – The Stardust Frequency
8. Akustik – The Phoenix Ember
9. SG – The Rebel Pulse
10. Archtop – The Carnival of Memory

Cycle II – The Ascending Cycle (11–15)

11. Les Paul – The Veins of Creation
12. Stratocaster – The Eyes Within the Night
13. SG – The Jungle Whisper
14. Archtop – Barock Fire
15. Les Paul – Lunar Palm Ascension

Custom Circle – The Dialogic Extension (16–18)

16. Stratocaster - “Stellar Covenant”
17. Acoustic Western – “Golden Resonance”
18. “Origin / Painted Core” Acoustic Western

Extensions & Sculptural Works

19. Acoustic “Dorli” — Hopf Travel Guitar (ca. 1950s–1960s)
20. Sculptural Work I — *The Keeper of Sound*

Public & Referential Works

21. *THE 24h RESILIENCE*
Unikat-Art-Guitar / Edition: 5 Years Motorworld München
22. Acoustic Western – *Ashes of Control*
23. Les Paul – *After the Applause*
24. Melody Archtop Model 225 – *Velvet Frequencies*
25. Telecaster – Voodoo Summer

Artist Statement

Klaus Kother combines visual art, fashion, music, object design, and cultural spaces into a single interdisciplinary concept. After working in international network relationship management, private banking, and entrepreneurial projects, his work increasingly evolved toward autonomous art and design cycles. With ROX Fashion, TARA Couture, and PAINTED SOUND, he creates works that blend rock 'n' roll, luxury, memory, material poetry, and emotional resonance—always driven by the idea that objects should not only be viewed but also felt.

Guitar Nr. 1. Les Paul – The Birth of Chaos



Atmospheric analysis

This Les Paul seems like a mythological beginning. The surface breathes explosion: layers of color overlap, layers emerge as if tones had been laid down as pigments. The mood is ritualistic and archaic—the guitar evokes a first chord from which an entire universe springs forth.

Formal characteristics

Dominance of green, bronze, and blue in dense, overlapping fields. Small figurative motifs (dancers, musical symbols) are integrated but never dominant — they emerge like relics from underground. The composition balances between organic curves and deliberate splashes.

Texture & materiality

Deep interplay of layers: transparent glazes over opaque color bodies create spatial depth. Partially slightly rough surface, areas with metallic sheen (bronze effects) that change in the light and thus simulate “cosmic” depths.

Compositional dynamics

Centripetal in effect: impulses break out from the center, expand, and fragment at the edges. Despite the chaos, a clear flow is discernible—not a purely random image, but a controlled explosion.

Symbolism

Dancers as life force, stars as a reference to the cosmos, musical symbols as a metaphor for the original chord. Together, the guitar becomes the “creation scene” of the series.

Emotional temperature

Mystical, exciting, instinctive — a guitar that creates tension and at the same time has a sacred effect.



Position in the cycle

Birth: Starting point for all subsequent steps, source of energy.

Guitar Nr. 2. Stratocaster – The Dance of Light



Atmospheric analysis

The Stratocaster transforms explosive energy into movement. Its atmosphere is light-flooded, tropical, and dance-like—sound becomes visible here as a flowing, rhythmic gesture.

Formal characteristics

Color spectrum with rich green, pink, and blue; fine glitter elements and floral motifs (palm trees, flowers) set narrative accents. Compositionally, it works with recurring wave and arch shapes.

Texture & Materiality

Finely shimmering layers of lacquer, selective glitter coatings, thin glazes, and locally opaque layers of oil create a dynamic richness of surface; the lacquer sealant enhances the feel and play of light.

Compositional dynamics

Flowing diagonally: the image movement “dances” across the body, rhythmic repetitions structure frequencies like beats.

Symbolism

Palm trees and floral elements signal freedom, travel, summer; the glitter particles are small musical sparks — improvisation as a visual effect.

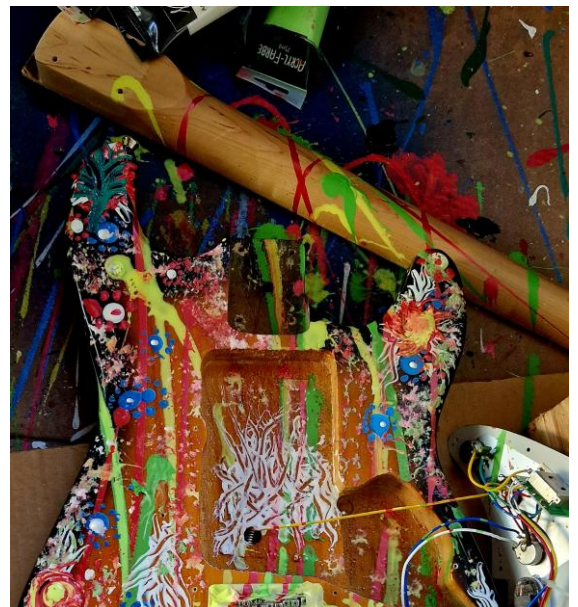
Emotional temperature

Light, carefree, cheerful—an exuberant celebration of the moment.



Position in the cycle

Translation of primal energy into playful movement—the cycle becomes “danceable.”



Guitar Nr. 3. Acoustic Guitar – The Memory of Wood



Atmospheric analysis

This acoustic guitar is a raw diary: urban, gestural, unpolished. It radiates the presence of the studio process—it is not the finished picture that is visible here, but its creation.

Formal characteristics

Matte earth tones, gestural fragments of writing, sticker impressions (e.g., “Munich,” “Circuit”), spontaneous lines—the composition is fragmentary and dense at the same time.

Texture & materiality

Rough matte finish, visibly filled and painted-over areas; the materiality emphasizes signs of use and process, almost like a wall with painted-over posters.

Compositional dynamics

Vertical and gestural movements dominate, the surface appears to be driven across by layers and overpaintings—the image is in motion, as if it were constantly renewing itself.

Symbolism

Writing as urban memory, stickers as markers of places/relationships; the acoustic guitar becomes a place of lived stories.

Emotional temperature

Restless, raw, personal — authenticity takes precedence over aesthetics.



Position in the cycle

The documentary, “realistic” moment: a counterpoint to mythology, immediate life.



Guitar Nr. 4. Telecaster – The Rust of Time



Atmospheric analysis

The Telecaster conveys patina, age, and dignity. Its presence is archaic and says: use is history, age is dignity.



Formal characteristics

Weathered red and black tones, exposed wood sections, patina effects; the visual language is more closely linked to material aging than to painterly freshness.

Texture & materiality

Scratch marks, weathered areas, matte reductions; deliberately applied abrasions and washes create the impression of historical substance.

Compositional dynamics

Calm, horizontally anchored; less movement, more sedimentation — the composition reads like layers of history.

Symbolism

Rust and scars as signs of time; wood as an honest material, as a reference to origin and craftsmanship.

Emotional temperature

Serious, dignified, melancholic-affirming.

Position in the cycle

Reflection point: the experience of time as a central theme.



Guitar Nr. 5. Explorer – The Divine Chaos



Atmospheric analysis

The Explorer is opulent, overloaded, and iconic at the same time. It looks like an altar where pop iconography, myth, and psychedelia come together.

Formal characteristics

Strong neon colors, dense ornamentation, a central Egyptian relief (Nefertiti) as a calming influence; the composition is dense and multi-layered.

Texture & materiality

High-gloss surfaces alongside dense layers of color; partial metallic effects, particular gold accents.

Compositional dynamics

Eccentric: explosive centers surround a static center—the movement revolves around myth.

Symbolism

Nefertiti as a sign of temporality and beauty; colors as an ecstatic form of creation.

Emotional temperature

Ecstatic, transcendent, overflowing with meaning.



Position in the cycle

Culmination point : Myth as an aesthetic synthesis of chaos and order.

Guitar Nr. 6. SG – The Dark Romance



Atmospheric analysis

The SG is intimate and baroque in style—a dark, romantic meditation. It reads like a letter: personal, familiar, imbued with sadness and passion.

Formal characteristics

Contrasting red-black-white triad, floral ornaments, lettering (“With Love”) — the visual language is rich in ornamentation and narrative.

Texture & materiality

Glossy lacquer surfaces with a fine ornamental engraving illusion; partially glazed to suggest depth behind the lacquer.

Compositional dynamics

Concentric, drawn toward the center; ornamentation creates intimate spaces.

Symbolism

Roses = love/loss; lettering as a direct address; stars as points of remembrance.

Emotional temperature

Melancholic, wistful, poetic.

Position in the cycle

Emotional anchor: intimacy and memory as a counterforce to the explorer's showmanship.



Guitar Nr. 7. Les Paul – The Stardust Frequency



Atmospheric analysis

A younger Les Paul, combining cosmos and contemplation: sonic stardust lying nebulously in the lacquer.

Formal characteristics

Shimmering shades of blue, silver, and purple; finely distributed “star” particles; very controlled color transitions.

Texture & materiality

Glass-like surface, very fine particles that glow when the light changes — the materiality creates an illusion of depth.

Compositional dynamics

Breathing, circulating; little break, instead gentle pulsation.



Symbolism

Stardust = frequency, universe = sound space; the image takes acoustic metaphors literally.

Emotional temperature

Sublime, calm, expansive.

Position in the cycle

Spherical perspective: the series opens up into the distance.

Guitar Nr. 8. Vintage acoustic electric – The Phoenix Ember



Atmospheric Analysis

This acoustic guitar is a manifesto of regeneration: warmth rises from dark cores, ashes turn to embers.

Formal characteristics

Warm color spectrum (orange, red, gold), flowing layers, spark and ash details.



Texture & materiality

Shimmering, partly sandy layers; the varnish has a “glowing” feel, almost like burnt wood radiating new warmth.

Compositional dynamics

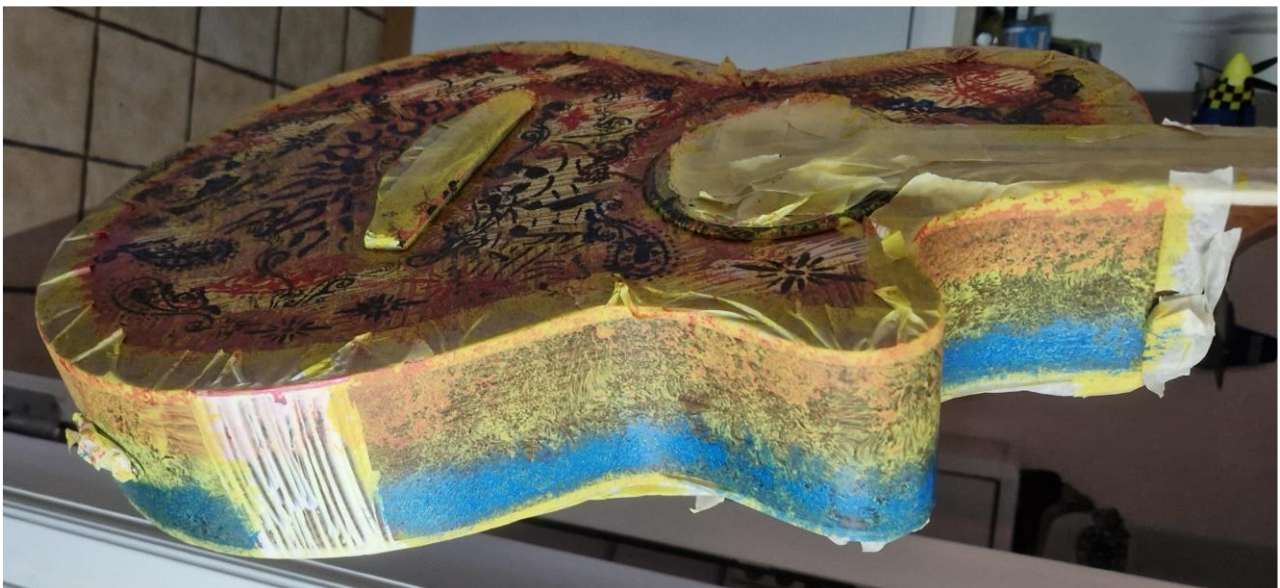
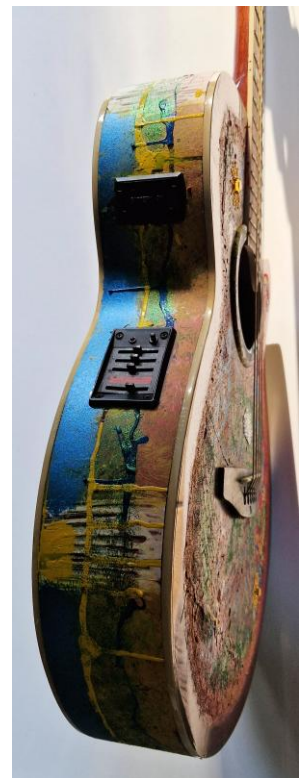
Ascending movement: denser at the bottom, lighter at the top—like flames opening up.

Symbolism

Phoenix = rebirth; embers = memory; gold = healing.
Emotional temperature
Warm-hearted, optimistic, vulnerably strong.

Position in the cycle

Reconstruction: the cycle motif of renewal.



Guitar Nr. 9. SG – The Rebel Pulse



Atmospheric analysis

The second SG is a storm of sparks: raw, urban, immediate. It radiates rebellion—visual punk aesthetics meet orchestral aggression.

Formal characteristics

Powerful palette of red, blue, black, and white; strong diagonals; a striking star as a leitmotif.

Texture & materiality

Glossy planes on matte contrasts; dynamic layers that appear like “electrified” leather.

Compositional dynamics

Sawtooth patterns, diagonal strokes, riff-like rhythms — visual attack as musical counterpart.

Symbolism

The star = direction/compass; diagonal paths = impulse and rupture; color contrasts = conflict and energy.

Emotional temperature

Explosive, combative, breathing with restlessness.

Position in the cycle

Storm before the calm; moment of escalation with transformative energy.



Guitar Nr. 10. Vintage Archtop – The Carnival of Memory



Atmospheric analysis

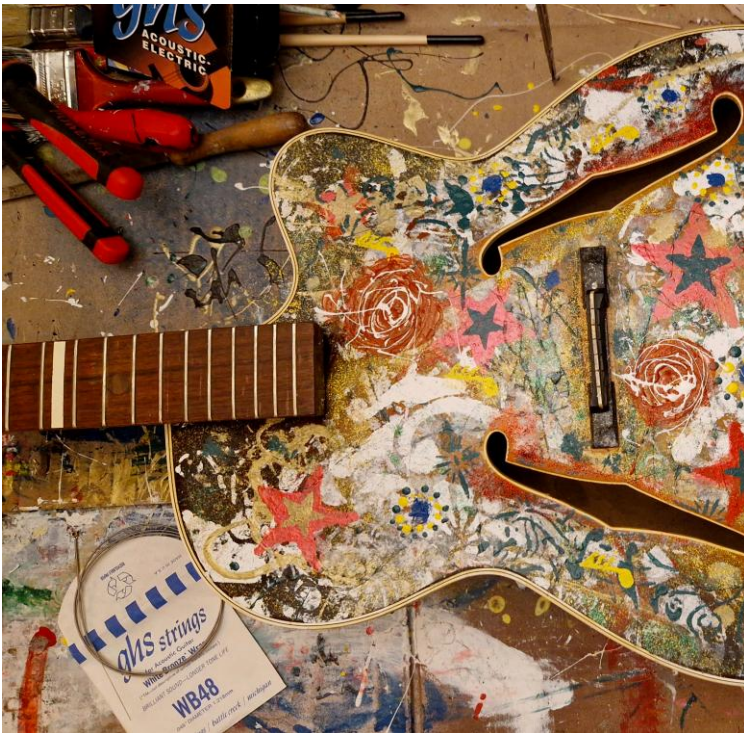
“The Carnival of Memory” is a visual feast: overlapping memories become colorful sequences that appear both frivolous and bittersweet. The archtop guitar serves as a stage here, its interior (F-holes) windows into a collective experience—variety show, street festival, intimate concert night.

Formal characteristics

Rich red-gold-white spectrum, star-like accents, spirals, and rose motifs. The ornamentation is dense but structured; many small centers compete without dividing the whole.

Texture & materiality

Soft, layered glazes, selective gold particles, partially roughened white application — the surface simulates both patina and festive lighting.



Compositional dynamics

Circular movements dominate; the eye travels in spirals across the body, finding its bearings again in stars, musical notes, and roses. No dominant vanishing point — the guitar is a mosaic of moments.

Symbolism

Carnival = collective memory; stars = stage; roses = intimacy; spirals = temporality. Together they form an archive that encompasses both loud celebrations and private devotions.

Emotional temperature

Warm, nostalgic, celebratory, with a melancholic undertone — a celebration of the past.

Position in the cycle

Reflective conclusion: not an ending, but a summary that brings together breadth, depth, and personal stories and points to an open future.



Guitar Nr. Nr. 11 Les Paul — The Veins of Creation



Atmospheric effect

An eruptive, untamed work of art. An instrument like a newly formed planet: colorful, raw, full of energy and impulsive movement. It seems as if the surface is still warm—a guitar in the heat of creation.

Formal characteristics

The iconic, round body shape remains a stable structure, but the painting radically breaks it up. Splashes, swirls, patches—a chaotic composition that allows no moments of calm. The white crackle structures are reminiscent of earth fissures.

Texture & materiality

Thick layers of paint create a haptic relief that refracts light in different ways. The guitar becomes an object that you want to touch. The surface looks like volcanic lava, cooled down yet full of inner heat.



Symbolism

Chaos as the origin. Sound as form.

The color energy represents creative explosion, the moment before order emerges. The embedded dark areas are like shadows of uncertainty from which artistic impulses are born.

Emotional temperature

Very high

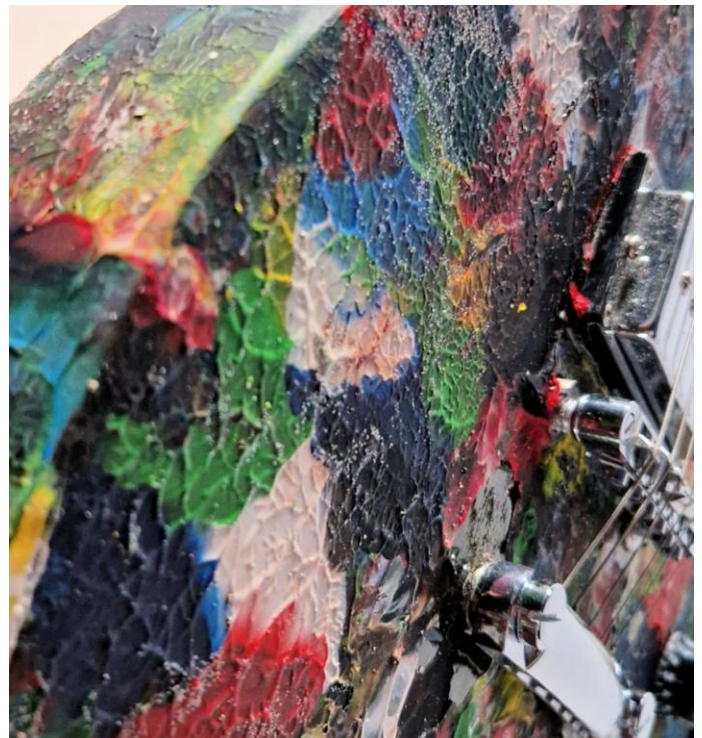
Impulsive, demanding, uncontrollable. No distance, no filter. It sweeps you away.

Position in the cycle

The first in the second cycle.

It represents the beginning of a new story.

What became a memory in the first cycle is reignited here — as fiery, physical energy.



Guitar Nr. 12 Stratocaster-Silhouette — The Eyes Within the Night



Atmospheric effect

A nocturnal stage set full of mysterious creatures.
A dark background, streaked with glowing symbols—as if eyes were peering out from the depths.
The guitar appears like a portal into a mysterious cosmos.



Formal characteristics

A clear dividing line runs diagonally across the body: a boundary between two worlds—night blue vs. explosion of color.
The graphic elements (eye shapes, flames, star motifs) provide orientation in the chaos without domesticating it.

Texture & materiality

The surface has a relief-like structure: layers that look like craters, almost like lunar landscapes.
The colors seem to glow beneath the blue — a depth effect that comes to life in the movement of the stage.

Symbolism

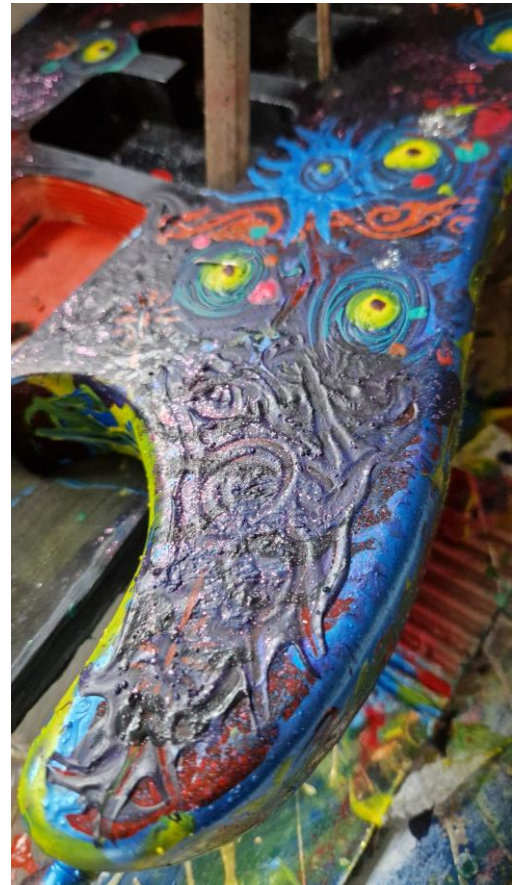
Seeing, being seen, vigilance.
The eye motifs represent consciousness—the creative observes itself.
The flames signal urgency: art must burn in order to exist.
The diagonal line separates intuition and control.
An inner struggle—and an alliance.

Emotional temperature

A mixture of darkness and energy
Tension, awakening, nocturnal alertness.
A guitar that asks questions — and hides answers.

Position in the cycle

This guitar is the first consciousness after the creative explosion.
Where No. 11 was chaos, No. 12 is insight:
Art begins to see.



Guitar Nr. 13 SG – The Jungle Whisper



Atmospheric effect

A tropical, lush atmosphere full of life. Rich shades of green, yellow, and red, combined with floral patterns, palm trees, and blossoms, create a jungle-like depth.

The guitar feels like a musical stroll through a vibrant garden—rhythmic, sun-drenched, alive.



Formal characteristics

The SG shape supports the vertical and diagonal movement of the floral motifs. Leaves and flowers follow the contours of the body, while areas of color flow organically into one another.

Texture & materiality

Multi-layered lacquer creates a relief-like surface; the colors seem to shimmer and pulsate at different angles of light.

Subtle glitter particles enhance the vitality of the composition.

Compositional dynamics

The direction of movement of the floral elements leads the eye from the base of the body to the headstock, with rhythmic lines conveying the impression of musical flow—sound becomes visible, movement becomes color.

Symbolism

> Nature, growth, freedom

Palm trees and flowers represent vitality, energy, and creative freedom.

The guitar conveys a sense of organic development, of energy drawn from nature and from within.

Emotional temperature

Vital, joyful, light

Liveliness and optimism, harmonious power, both playful and lush.

Position in the cycle

This guitar is the third instrument of the second cycle (No. 13), a calm but powerful counterpoint between the somber No. 12 (The Eyes Within the Night) and the dramatic No. 14 (Baroque Fire).

It acts as a colorful, lively interlude that brightens the cycle and prepares the transition to opulence.

Guitar Nr. 14 vintage Archtop – Barock Fire



Atmospheric effect

A dramatic, almost theatrical stage of light and shadow.
Warm, golden-red tones flare up against a dark background.
The guitar looks like a musical baroque palace going up in flames – opulent, passionate, fiery.



The combination of flame colors and classical ornaments refers to the union of history and creative explosion.

Emotional temperature

A mixture of heat, tension, and solemnity
Passionate, energetic, extroverted—an emotional firestorm.

Position in the cycle

This guitar marks the end of the second section of the cycle (Nos. 11–14) as a dramatic conclusion.

It combines the experience of the previous instruments with baroque opulence and expressive firepower.

Formal characteristics

The elegant, curved lines of the archtop body emphasize the classic shape, contrasted by expressively placed areas of color.
Harmonious curves meet diagonal, impulsive strokes of color.

Texture & materiality

Relief-like, multi-layered lacquer coats create depth, almost like an oil painting.
Golden highlights shimmer like gold leaf, while red and orange tones intensify the energy of the composition.

Compositional dynamics

The color movement follows an ascending, spiral-shaped dynamic—from the base of the body upward to the headstock.
This spiral conveys ascent, transformation, drama.

Symbolism

Passion, rebirth, baroque opulence



Guitar Nr. 15. Les Paul – Lunar Palm Ascension



Atmospheric effect

A nocturnal vision: a white palm tree against a cosmic firmament, above it a clear, silver moon. The guitar oscillates between calm and energy—a luminous dream state that connects heaven and earth.



Formal characteristics

Central white application of the palm tree, geometric moon circle, colored rays and explosions in yellow, pink, turquoise, and red. A vertical upward movement is interrupted by radial bursts of color.

Texture & materiality

Dense layers, relief-like areas, night glow, cosmically shimmering surfaces. The moon remains smooth and calm – a clear contrast.

Compositional dynamics

Vertical ascent (nature → sky), radial explosion (light → energy).

Together, they create a spiral of ascent.

Symbolism

Nature + Cosmos

Growth + Insight

Grounding + Transcendence

The palm tree represents life, the moon represents consciousness, and the colors represent cosmic expansion.

Emotional Temperature

Cool and warm at the same time—meditative, poetic, ascending.

Position in the Cycle

Final conclusion of Cycle II.

The cosmic state after the baroque fire transformation.
A calm, radiant final light — the moment of insight.



Guitar Nr. 16 - "Stellar Covenant" (Stratocaster-Silhouette – Custom Circle / Cycle III – Beginning)

On permanent display at the Jailhouse in Bad Tölz (Bavaria) since May 2026

The work was first placed on permanent display outside the studio context as part of a US car and rock 'n' roll gathering.



Atmospheric effect

This guitar seems like a solemn pact between chaos and order.

In contrast to the eruptive primal works of the first cycle, a mature, balanced energy is palpable here: explosive, but controlled. The surface is reminiscent of a universe that has already experienced many supernovae—traces of heat, light, growth, and memory overlap.

It conveys liveliness without aggression, joy without naivety. A guitar that shows presence without having to be loud.

Formal characteristics

The Stratocaster shape serves as the ideal vehicle for the visual language: open, ergonomic, iconic.

The composition is distributed evenly across the body, without a dominant center — instead, a network of events emerges : floral elements (bottom left), cosmic particles and splashes, a striking yellow star shape as a visual anchor, rhythmic lines that act like musical tracks. The painting respects the form, but does not submit to it — it activates it.

Color & pictorial space

The color space is multi-layered and deliberately not monochrome:

Primary colors (red, yellow, blue) as emotional undertones

White as a connecting, breathing element

Dark passages as depth and contrast

Golden accents as a reference to value, dignity, and permanence

The yellow star serves as a point of orientation: hope, direction, signature.

Texture & Materiality

The surface has a pronounced tactile relief.

Layers, drops, splashes, and impasto zones create a tactile presence—you can feel that this guitar was made, not decorated.

The materiality conveys:

Craftsmanship + Intuition + Time

It is not a smooth luxury object, but an authentic artifact.

Compositional dynamics

The movement is rhythmically distributed — like a song with multiple motifs that repeat, vary, and comment on each other. Not a linear narrative, but a visual improvisation piece.

The lines are reminiscent of musical phrasing: pauses, accents, repetitions.

Symbolism

Star → orientation, hope, personal guiding point, floral elements → growth, life, positivity, splashes & lines → spontaneity, energy, freedom, overlaps → life paths, encounters, decisions.

The overall image is that of a successful, lived life that is aware of its origins but looks ahead.

Emotional temperature

Warm, optimistic, powerful

This guitar is inviting, not challenging.

It celebrates energy without dominating — a quality that is rarely found.



Guitar Nr. 17 - "Golden Resonance" (Acoustic Western – Custom Circle / Cycle III)



Atmospheric effect

This guitar radiates depth, grounding, and consistency.

Where No. 16 embodies connection and new beginnings, No. 17 resonates with resonance and anchoring. It is less extroverted, but all the more enduring. The atmosphere is reminiscent of a place where music is not performed, but lived. It is a guitar with inner calm, yet full of movement—not loud, but carrying.



Formal characteristics

The Western shape offers a generous, open surface that is fully activated by the painting.

The central sound hole area functions as a resting heart around which the visual action unfolds.

The composition works with:

- asymmetrical balance,
- organic color clusters,
- targeted accents (star motif, floral structures),
- flowing lines that act like sound waves.

Everything remains open, breathing, not condensed.

Color & image space

The color space is more earthy and harmonious than in No. 16:
warm brown and red tones,
rich green tones as a reference to life and nature,
white as a structuring element,
gold as a calm, valuable accent color.

The yellow star reappears, but less dominantly—not as an exclamation, but as a confirmation.

Texture & Materiality

The surface displays a multi-layered, almost geological texture.

Spatula-like sections, dripping lines, and glazed transitions create depth without heaviness. The materiality appears handcrafted, honest, tangible: this guitar does not seek to shine—it seeks to sound. Especially on an acoustic guitar, the painting seems like an extension of the sound box, not like a skin over it.

Compositional dynamics

The dynamics are circular and resonant.

Movements are not linear, but wave-like—comparable to sound spreading through space. The eye does not follow any hard directions, but drifts—just like acoustic music that does not impose itself, but accompanies.

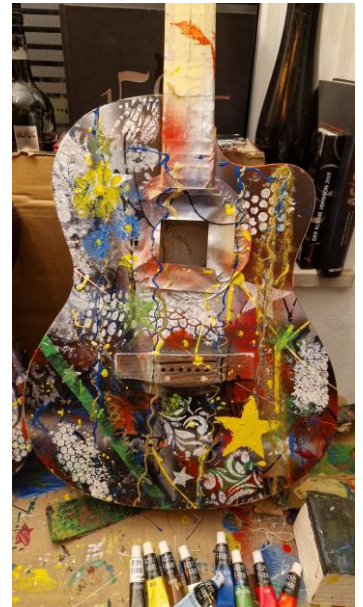
Symbolism

- Star → Orientation without urgency
- Floral motifs → Growth, continuity, care
- Overlaps → Cooperation, partnership, shared path
- Gold accents → Value through substance, not volume
- This guitar speaks of a shared history and common foundation.

Emotional temperature

Warm, calm, stable

It conveys trust. No drama, no struggle — just presence and reliability.



Guitar Nr. 18 - "Origin / Painted Core" (Acoustic Cutaway – Custom Circle / Cycle III)



Atmospheric effect

This guitar is neither a mediator nor a counterpart—it is the center. It is No. 18 Origin and Responsibility. The atmosphere is intense, dense, and at the same time open. You can sense that nothing here was made “for someone”—but rather out of inner compulsion. This is not a gesture. It is a position.

Formal characteristics

The cutaway shape appears to be a deliberate opening: not decorative, but functional – almost biographical. The sound hole area is less a haven of peace than a maelstrom. The painting draws in from all sides, as if everything that was and is converges there. The composition is complex, multi-layered, asymmetrical, deliberately superimposed. That is precisely what makes it credible.

Color & pictorial space

No. 18 is the most color-dense of the three guitars. Strong contrasts (red/blue/yellow), massive white settings, recurring star motifs, floral structures, black marks and lines like traces or markings. The yellow star appears here not as an accent, but as a statement. It is not friendly – it is present.



Texture & materiality

The surface is raw, multi-layered, sometimes almost aggressive.

You can see: overpainting, corrections, deliberate imperfections, drops, splashes, pressure marks.

This is crucial: this guitar wants to hide nothing. It bears the process, the doubt, the decision—visibly.

Compositional dynamics

The movement is radial and fragmented.

There is no gentle flow as in No. 17, no directed impulse as in No. 16. Instead: Simultaneity. Past, present, and possibility lie on top of each other.

The eye jumps—just like thoughts in creative phases.

Symbolism

Stars → self-location, not desire

Floral elements → growth despite chaos

Black shapes → breaks, boundaries, reality

Gold accents → value that has been earned

This guitar speaks not of success, but of attitude.

Emotional temperature

Intense, honest, uncompromising

This is not a “beautiful” guitar in the classical sense.

It is a true one.



Guitar No. 19 – “Dorli” (Hopf Travel Guitar, ca. 1950s–1960s)



Atmospheric Effect

This guitar carries a palpable sense of time within it. Unlike the previous works, it does not feel explosive or cosmic, but rather grounded, almost narratively serene.

The floral patterns exude an almost nostalgic aura—like an echo of past journeys, songs, and touches. The guitar appears like a found object that has not been recreated, but rather retold.

Formal Characteristics

The classic, minimalist form of the Wandergitarre remains clearly recognizable. The painting respectfully follows this structure and does not overlay it, but rather integrates itself into the existing geometry. The floral elements are evenly distributed and form a cohesive pictorial field that is less fragmented than in earlier works.

Color & Pictorial Space

A warm, deep red dominates, enveloping the entire body of the work. Overlaid upon this are golden structures that resemble ornamental nets. Shades of blue, green, and yellow provide floral accents that appear like small, tranquil points of sound. The pictorial space is not open or explosive, but rather dense and closed, with an almost textile-like effect.

Texture & Materiality

The surface appears softer and less relief-like than in earlier works. Golden layers create a slightly shimmering patina reminiscent of aged fabrics or historical surfaces. The materiality represents time and sedimentation rather than energy.

Compositional Dynamics

The composition is stable and expansive. No strong diagonals or explosive movements—instead, a calm, almost ornamental spread across the entire surface. The eye moves smoothly, without breaks or axes of tension.

Symbolism

Memory, Origin, Time
The floral patterns represent nature and continuity. The gold refers to value—not as luxury, but as refined remembrance. The guitar becomes a vessel of history, not of explosion.

Emotional Temperature

Warm, calm, introverted
A work without urgency. It demands nothing—it remains.

Position in the Overall Cycle

This guitar stands outside the classical dramaturgy of Cycles I and II. It belongs in:
Cycle III – Expansion / Archive / Level of Memory
It is not a departure, but a look back.
A quiet counterpoint to the energy of the entire work.



Objekt Nr. 20 – Sculptural Work I - The Keeper of Sound



Atmospheric Effect

This object marks a fundamental break—and at the same time, an opening. Here, the guitar is no longer merely a medium for painting, but part of a physical gesture.

The arms transform the instrument into a figure.

The work feels like a moment of intimacy : protection, an embrace, a merging.

Formal Characteristics

Vertical orientation, clear axis.

The guitar forms the core; the arms break through the pure logic of the object and create an anthropomorphic silhouette. The connection between the instrument and the body fragment creates a new form—somewhere between sculpture and object art.

Color & Visual Space

The color treatment remains in the style of Painted Sound: multilayered, expressive color fields, floral elements, gestural lines.

However, the three-dimensional expansion creates a real space—color is no longer just a surface, but envelops volume.

Texture & Materiality

The combination of wood, varnish, plastic (arms), and metal creates a hybrid materiality.

The surface remains painterly, while the form already speaks sculpturally.

The work moves between:

Object – Body – Sign

Compositional Dynamics

Centered and vertically aligned.

The arms create a closed movement—a circular shape that envelops the guitar.

This gesture introduces emotional physicality into the work for the first time.

Symbolism

Relationship, protection, identity

The guitar is no longer played—it is held.

The work speaks to:

- The connection between people and music
- Possession vs. relationship
- Art as something one not only views, but embraces

Emotional temperature

Warm, intimate, direct

The most personal work to date.

Not cosmic, not abstract—but human.

Position within the body of work

This is a turning point. Not Cycle I. Not Cycle II. Not just Custom Circle.

This is: the beginning of a new group of works:

Painted Sound – Sculptural Works. This object is: the first step into the space, the transition from painting to sculpture, the beginning of a new collector's category



Guitar No. 21 "THE 24h RESILIENCE" One-of-a-Kind Art Guitar Edition : 5 Years of Motorworld Munich



Curatorial Context

This work is a symbiosis of kinetic energy and sonic aesthetics. Created to mark the fifth anniversary of Motorworld Munich, the instrument captures the raw dynamism of motorsports and the elegance of handcrafted mechanics.

The Aesthetics of the Road: The heavily textured surface (impasto) evokes the texture of asphalt, rubber grime, and the patina of historic race cars. The design deliberately breaks with the perfection of industrial paint finishes and celebrates the imperfection and power of the handmade.

Symbolism: The striking "5" and the official Motorworld emblem anchor the piece in the historical context of the venue. "Gold and magenta create a tension between festive presentation and raw energy."

Functional art: Despite its expressive design, the object remains a precise musical instrument. The contrast between the wild outer shell and the technical purity of the sound makes this guitar a unique collector's item. "This instrument is not just meant to be looked at—it carries the rhythm of the engines in its strings."

Atmospheric Effect

"THE 24h RESILIENCE" evokes an atmosphere of perpetual motion. The work appears as a visual condensation of speed, night racing, trails of light, and mechanical tension. Despite the immense energy, it does not result in chaotic destruction, but rather in a controlled form of resilience. The guitar conveys the feeling that it is still in the midst of movement—between asphalt, sound, and adrenaline. The front possesses an open, almost cosmic dynamism, while the back appears significantly darker and more emotionally condensed. This creates a tension between public performance and inner intensity.

Formal Characteristics

The composition is based on a spiral-like main movement organized around the soundhole and bridge. The instrument's form is not concealed but deliberately utilized to create axes of movement.

Particularly strong is the interplay of:

- linear impulsive movements
- condensed fields of material
 - open areas of calm
 - relief-like structures

Despite its high complexity, the guitar remains legible. The gestural painting is held together by recurring paths and directions. Formally, the neck functions as a vertical axis of rest between the energetic pictorial spaces of the front and back.

Color & Pictorial Space

The pictorial space is created primarily through superimposition. Black does not serve as a background here, but rather creates a sense of spatial depth from which fields of color and movements emerge. Gold, cyan-blue, and magenta in particular generate axes of light within the surface.

The color spaces do not appear flat, but rather atmospheric: like reflections of light on oil, metal, or wet asphalt.

The white grid and stencil structures generate additional visual

frequencies and are reminiscent of :



- checkered flags
- race markings
- abrasion-like traces
- technical diagrams

This creates a hybrid pictorial space between urban abstraction and racing aesthetics.

Texture & Materiality

The work's strong materiality is one of its most important characteristics. The surface possesses an almost topographical quality: scratches, compacted areas, glitter varnishes, impasto layers, and transparent overlays create a physical depth that would be nearly impossible to reproduce digitally.

The work thrives on the interplay between:

- rough asphalt textures
- glistening refractions of light
- spontaneous gestural interventions
- controlled compositional fields

In places, the materiality evokes weathered race car bodies or historic workshop surfaces.

It is precisely this that creates authenticity.

Compositional Dynamics

The central movement runs in a spiral pattern across the entire front.

The "5" functions not only as a symbol but as the visual starting point of the energy movement. From there, a system of counter-movements, flows, and condensations unfolds.

Crucially:

The composition never tilts completely toward the center but remains in constant motion. The back, on the other hand, works more with compression and pressure.

It feels like the energetic back of an engine: more compact, hotter, more immediate.

This creates an almost musical alternation between the front and back:

Front → Expansion ... Back → Compression

Symbolism

The symbolism is deliberately left open-ended, without becoming arbitrary.

The "5" marks the specific occasion: 5 years of Motorworld Munich.

At the same time, it becomes a universal symbol for:

- Race number
- Identity
- Speed
- Recognition
- Endurance

The title "THE 24h RESILIENCE" expands this layer of meaning. Here, resilience does not stand for calm, but for resilience under sustained intensity:

24 hours of movement.

24 hours of pressure.



24 hours of energy.

The guitar thus connects motorsports and music through a shared principle:

Rhythm under tension.

Emotional Temperature

The work possesses a high emotional temperature.

It comes across as loud, fast, and physical—yet at the same time, not aggressively destructive. Instead, it creates a form of emotional charge reminiscent of live music, race nights, and urban energy.

Gold particles and glitter finishes prevent the work from becoming too heavy or too dark. They create brief moments of light within the density.

This keeps the work lively rather than oppressive.

Guitar No. 22 — “ASHES OF CONTROL”



Atmospheric Effect

The work creates an intense emotional tension between explosion and exhaustion. The surface appears as a visible emotional state of emergency—raw, fragmented, and at the same time poetically condensed. Despite the aggressive gestures, a surprising intimacy emerges.

Formal Characteristics

The composition combines free, expressive painting with rhythmic calligraphic structures. Recurring fragments of symbols and radial star shapes provide orientation within the apparent chaos. The front and back function as two emotional states of the same work.



Color & pictorial space

Black forms the dominant resonant space from which neon colors—magenta, yellow, and green—erupt. The front appears electric and unstable, while the back develops an almost meditative heaviness through deep red-violet.

Texture & Materiality

The heavily layered surface creates a physical presence. Color concentrations, overlays, and visible movements in the application of paint are reminiscent of urban walls, burnt posters, or damaged stage sets. The work deliberately thrives on imperfection and traces of the process.

Compositional Dynamics

The diagonal movements and explosive centers create a constant tension. At the same time, the black gestural lines hold the work together and prevent the complete disintegration of the pictorial order.

Symbolism

The star and impact shapes represent emotional collisions, but also moments of hope within inner darkness. Here, the instrument becomes less an object of musical harmony and more a vessel for personal memory and psychic energy.

Emotional Temperature

Highly emotional, intense, and vulnerable.

The work oscillates between anger, fatigue, defiance, and the attempt to capture beauty despite inner exhaustion.

Position within the overall cycle

“ASHES OF CONTROL” marks a distinctly more personal and existential phase within the Painted Sound cycle. While earlier works focused more on dynamics, pop culture, or performative energy, this piece opens up a direct autobiographical resonance for the first time. It is precisely this that gives it an extraordinary authenticity.



Guitar No. 23 – Les Paul “After the Applause”



Work Type

Hand-painted playable Les Paul interpretation, mixed media on electric guitar, one-of-a-kind / playable art object

Curatorial Statement

“AFTER THE APPLAUSE” does not focus on the moment of performance—but rather on the emotional space that follows. The work captures the lingering echoes of energy, success, exhaustion, and memory.

Between a scorched surface, fragmented luxury aesthetics, and the remnants of a classic Sunburst icon, a work emerges about resonance, loss, and dignity.

The guitar appears as an object that has already lived: loud, intense, visible—and now bears only its traces.

The instrument’s original identity is deliberately preserved in part. It is precisely this contrast between classic rock ‘n’ roll aesthetics and radical reduction that generates the work’s emotional tension.

Artistic Analysis

Front — Deconstruction of the Icon

The front is based on a classic Les Paul silhouette—a symbol of musical power, virtuosity, and cultural significance.

This iconic form is not destroyed, but partially stripped away.

The raw black surface resembles:

- burnt wood,
- asphalt,
- oil,
- soot,
- layers of memory.
- The gold does not appear decorative, but rather like:
 - fading light,
 - embers,
 - remaining dignity,
 - past glory.
- The partially preserved original sunburst finish creates a second temporal layer:
 - The instrument visibly reveals its former identity.
 - This creates a rare tension between:
 - past and present,
 - glamour and exhaustion,
 - stage and silence.

Back — Resonance Chamber

The back evokes a significantly calmer and emotionally deeper visual language.

Black, dark red, and golden reflections bring to mind :

- cities at night,
- light reflections on wet asphalt,
- distant skyline structures,
- urban solitude.

The surface has a cinematic quality.

In contrast to the energetic front, this side does not make a statement but rather creates an atmosphere. It is precisely this restraint that makes the back the emotional center of the work.



Materiality & Surface

The surface is deliberately left raw and imperfect.

Traces,
scratches,
layers,

abrasions, and open textures are not concealed but made visible as part of the emotional narrative.

As a result, the work clearly moves away from decorative instrument design and approaches contemporary object art.

Curatorial Context

Within the PAINTED SOUND cycle, "AFTER THE APPLAUSE" marks a stronger shift toward emotional reduction and atmospheric depth.

The work moves between:

- Contemporary Art,
- musical memento,
- emotional material aesthetics
- and urban object culture.

The focus is not on the instrument's perfection, but on its resonance as a vessel of lived experience.

Central themes

- Resonance after the performance
- Memory and loss of identity
- The beauty of fragmentation
- Dignity despite exhaustion
- Deconstruction of musical icons
- Urbanity and emotional isolation
- The echo of success and energy



Artistic Features

Asymmetry as a Source of Tension

The deliberate partial treatment of the front creates a dynamic visual instability.

Atmospheric Back

The back conveys a greater emotional depth than the front, extending the work beyond the realm of classical guitar art.

Playability as Part of the Concept

The piece remains fully playable, thereby preserving its original function as a soundbox.

Technical Basis

Base Instrument : Les Paul-Style Electric Guitar
Technique: Mixed Media / Hand Painting / Layering / Finish
Finish: Deliberately Raw and Atmospheric
Work Status: One-of-a-Kind / Signed Piece

Position within the cycle

While earlier works in the PAINTED SOUND cycle focused more on energy, symbolism, and expressive imagery, "AFTER THE APPLAUSE" develops a significantly more restrained and emotionally intense visual language.

The work ranks among the most atmospheric and curatorially mature pieces in the series.

**Guitar No. 24 “Velvet Frequencies” Electro-Acoustic 60s Jazz Guitar
Italy, ca. 1965–1975, Restored & transformed by Klaus Kother**



Atmospheric Analysis

Velvet Frequencies feels like a floating resonance chamber suspended between a jazz club, memory, and nocturnal elegance.

The work does not radiate an open explosion, but rather a slow, vibrating intensity.

The instrument no longer seems to produce sound, but rather to have stored it—like a final note lingering in the room.

The atmosphere is dark, velvety, sensual, and at the same time permeated by a subtle inner tension.

Formal Characteristics

Deep black, wine-red transitions, and fragmented gold accents form a controlled, luxurious color architecture.

The ornamental patterns appear like baroque shadows or organic frequency fields.

The semi-transparent pickguard creates a deliberate contrast between elegance and wildness.

The composition works less with explosion than with condensation and subtle movement.

Texture & Materiality

The surface possesses an extraordinary material depth.

Sparkle finishes overlay matte and silky areas, creating a pulsating play of light.

The effect changes depending on the viewing angle:

at times it appears soft as velvet, at others electric, almost glowing.

The gold lines do not appear artificial, but rather like spontaneous, energetic cracks within the surface.

Compositional Dynamics

The work unfolds its movement not through sharp contrasts, but through slow currents.

The ornamental forms circle almost imperceptibly around the center, creating a suspended tension.

The reverse side further enhances this effect:

less event, more reverberation.

As a result, the entire guitar functions like a visual echo.

Symbolism

The wine-red center represents inner fervor, memory, and residual emotional energy.

The black border zones appear as absorbing silence or darkness following the sound.

The gold fragments appear as:

- remnants of light,
- fragile flashes of memory,
- or traces of lingering beauty in decay.
- The pickguard introduces a second layer:
- glamour, the stage, excess, and rock 'n' roll instinct.



Emotional Temperature

Darkly glowing, melancholic, elegant, and highly atmospheric.
The work carries no aggressive energy, but rather a controlled intensity—like a voice after midnight or music from an abandoned club.

Position in the Cycle

Within **Painted Sound**, **Velvet Frequencies** marks a transition from expressive explosion to atmospheric densification.
The work no longer represents a new beginning or chaos, but rather resonance, memory, and maturity.
It is among the quieter, yet emotionally deepest works of the cycle to date.

Curatorial Analysis

With the Melody Archtop Mod. 225, Painted Sound reaches a new phase of artistic condensation.
The work moves away from the immediate explosion of earlier pieces and instead shifts toward atmosphere, memory, and controlled resonance.
The original Italian archtop guitar—an instrument bearing visible traces of time and structural vulnerability—was not merely restored, but transformed into a state where the act of repair itself becomes part of the aesthetic.
The work is based on a classic sunburst design:
a deep black at the edges, a wine-red center that emerges from the darkness like glowing residual heat.
Yet unlike traditional vintage instruments, the surface does not remain nostalgic.
It is overlaid with:

- ornamental shadow structures,
- vibrating layers of sparkle,
- fragmented gold lines,
- and an almost organic movement of depth within the lacquered surface.

As a result, the guitar appears less like an object —
and more like an acoustic reverberation, materialized on wood.

Front — Resonance After the Climax

The front exhibits an extraordinary balance between control and disintegration.
The center glows like residual stage energy after the end of a concert.
The black peripheral zones do not appear harshly defined, but rather absorbing—like darkness that slowly swallows sound.
The ornamental patterns do not appear decorative, but rather evoke:

- trails of smoke,
- charred velvet textures,
- baroque shadows,
- or electric resonance fields.
- Only upon closer inspection do the gold lines reveal themselves.
- They do not function as ornamentation,
- but rather as:
- fragile reflections of light,
- cracks in the darkness,
- brief bursts of energy,
- or traces of lingering memory.

Their placement is crucial:
They do not dominate the surface,
but only interrupt it sporadically.
This creates tension.
The instrument begins to shimmer.

The Pickguard as a Counterpoint

The semi-transparent pickguard is particularly striking.
Its leopard-like, psychedelic-looking pattern creates a deliberate contrast to the body's melancholic undertone.
This gives rise to a rare duality:

- Elegance and wildness,
- Memory and the stage,
- Control and excess.

The pickguard seems almost like a relic of glam rock, Art Deco, and psychedelic aesthetics all at once.
It brings movement to the instrument's quiet depths.

Back — The True Emotional Plane

As with several works within the cycle, the back develops an unexpectedly strong emotional impact.
It is quieter.
More abstract.
More open.

The large wine-red surface appears almost incorporeal—like a fading core of light.
The dark ornamental fields do not frame this core symmetrically,
but rather like slow currents.
It is precisely the extreme reduction of the gold traces that makes the back so powerful.
It does not appear designed in the classical sense,
but rather atmospheric.

Almost like:

- a final note in the room,
- an empty concert hall,
- or the memory of something that has already passed.

The reverse side no longer speaks of performance—
but of reverberation.

Sides and Neck — Transition Zones

The sides play a central role in the work.
They not only connect the front and back,
but also function like cinematic transitions between two emotional states.
The scattered gold fragments along the dark edges are reminiscent of:
♣ electrical wires,
♣ reflections of light in the shadows,
♣ or traces of slow energy movement.
The neck subtly continues this language.
The ornamental lines there appear almost like charred plant forms or old tattoos
beneath varnish.
This creates a complete visual circular movement across the entire instrument.

Restoration as Part of the Statement

An essential aspect of this work lies in the visible process of transformation.
The guitar was:

- opened,
- repaired,
- re-glued,
- structurally stabilized,
- electronically tested,
- and subsequently artistically reinterpreted.

As a result, the instrument's history is not hidden—
it becomes part of the work.

Not perfection,
but rebirth is at the center.

Art-historical classification

The work moves between:

- Art Deco,
- Glam Rock,
- Dark Romanticism,
- Informal Art,
- Psychedelic Surface Art,
and sculptural object art.

Within the Painted Sound cycle, Melody marks a transition:
away from the pure explosion of energy in earlier works —
toward more subtle emotional spaces.

The guitar does not scream.
It glows.

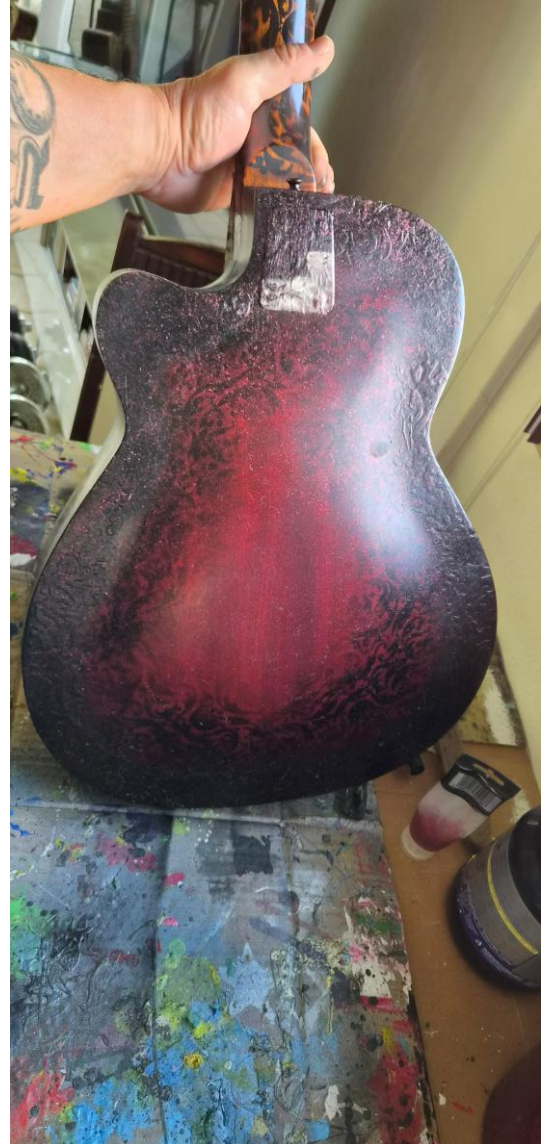
Curatorial Conclusion

After the Applause is among the most atmospherically dense works of the cycle to date.
The work does not unfold its effect immediately,
but layer by layer.

It thrives on:

- intimacy,
- shifts in light,
- depth of material,
and the tension between elegance and transience.

The guitar seems like an instrument
that no longer needs to be played
to produce sound.
It has itself become resonance.



Guitar No. 25 Tele Style Thinline "Voodoo Summer" 2026



Curatorial Analysis

Atmospheric Analysis

Voodoo Summer feels like the memory of a summer that is long gone yet still lingers in the skin.

The work oscillates between festival, road trip, flower power, the vastness of America, and personal longing.

Unlike many psychedelic works, it is not nostalgic.
It feels lived.

The flowers do not appear decorative, but rather like traces of a summer lived.

Color fields, gold particles, and glittery surfaces create an atmosphere somewhere between concert lights, a dusty road, and a sunset.

The guitar feels like an object that has stored stories.

Formal Characteristics

The composition is based on three main axes:

1. Candy Apple Red Base

The original paint remains visible.

This is crucial.

It serves as a visual anchor and connects the front and back.

2. Psychedelic color zone

Violet, pink, blue, and red overlap on the left side of the body.

This is where the work's true energy emerges.

The colors appear spontaneous, yet remain controlled.

3. Gold as a rhythmic element

Gold does not appear as a luxurious material.

It resembles sunlight.

Like dust.

Like fading memories.

The distribution remains irregular and prevents any decorative overload.

Texture & Materiality

One of the work's most striking characteristics.

Various surface layers come together:

- Gold leaf
- Glitter lacquer
- Acrylic paint
- Stencils

- Spray paint
- Original finish

This creates an almost archaeological surface.

One gets the feeling of seeing multiple layers of time superimposed upon one another.

Compositional Dynamics

The front develops a diagonal movement from the top left to the bottom right.

The floral forms do not serve as ornaments.



They function like musical accents.
Almost like individual notes within an improvised guitar solo.
The white pickguard area creates an important counterpoint.
Without this large, light surface, the work would collapse.

The Back

The back is perhaps the biggest surprise.
It does the exact opposite of the front.

Instead of an explosion:
Simplicity.
Instead of abundance:
Emptiness.
Instead of a festival:
Memory.

The single pink flower stem becomes the central motif.
Almost like the last remaining flower after a long summer.
The few gold particles look like stars or fading points of light.
This creates a poetic calm that lends the front a second layer
of meaning.

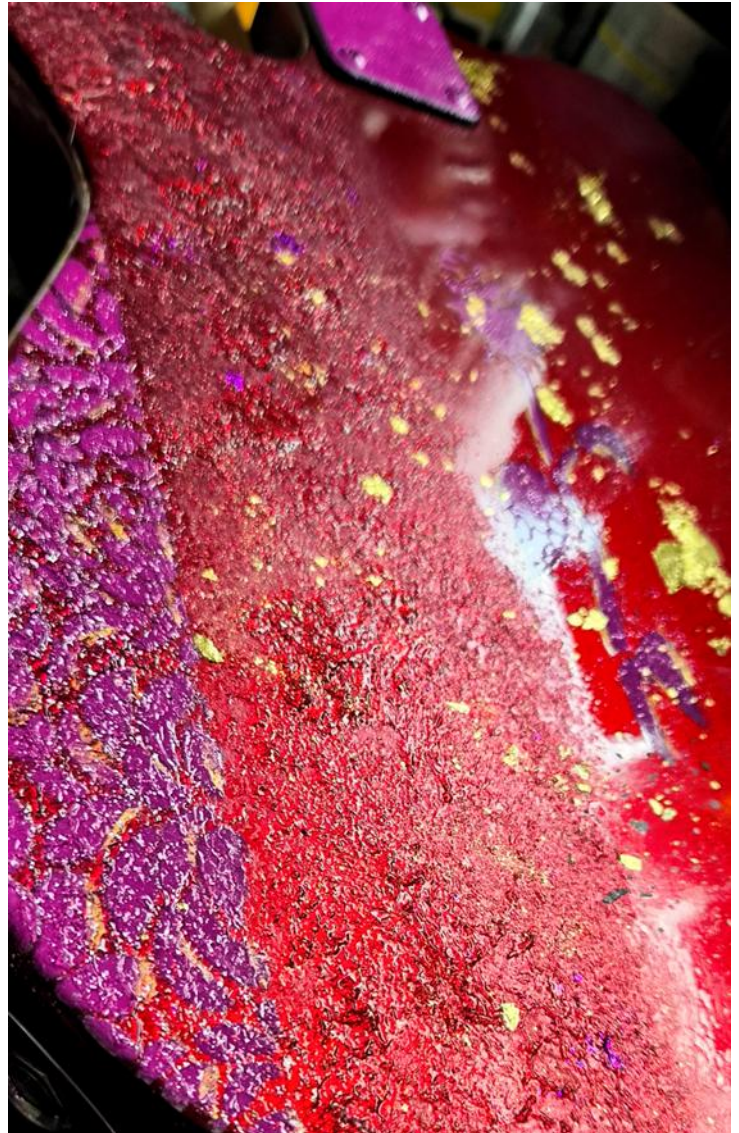
Symbolism

Flowers
Transience.
Joy of life.
Summer.
Freedom.

Gold
Sunlight.
Memory.
Value.
Loss.

Pink and Violet
Emotion.
Longing.
Music.
Improvisation.

Candy Apple Red
Passion.
American guitar culture.
Rock 'n' Roll.



The single flower on the back
Perhaps the strongest symbol of the entire work.
It seems to ask:
What remains when summer is over?

Emotional Temperature

Warm.
Lively.
Longing.
Not aggressive.
Not rebellious.
Not tragic.

The work possesses a surprising lightness.

Position in the PAINTED SOUND Cycle

Among your 25 works to date, Voodoo Summer occupies a special place.

Works such as:

- ☐ After The Applause
- ☐ Velvet Frequencies

deal more with memory, reflection, and depth.

Other guitar pieces focus on energy and contrast.

Voodoo Summer, on the other hand, is the first work that consistently explores the joy of life.

It feels like an interlude.

A brief respite between the heavier works.

Artistic Context

The timing of its creation is particularly interesting.

The work was created during a period marked by:

- financial uncertainty
- legal pressure
- professional stress
- emotional disappointment

And yet, the result is not a dark work.

That is precisely what makes it relevant.

Voodoo Summer is not an expression of despair.

Rather, it is an expression of resistance against despair.

The guitar asserts color where life currently offers little color.

Curatorial Conclusion

Voodoo Summer is among the most emotionally accessible works in the PAINTED SOUND cycle.

It combines the raw materiality of artisanal craftsmanship with an unusual lightness born of color, memory, and musical freedom.

The work does not tell of a specific summer.

It tells of the wish that a summer might never end.



The Painted Sound

“The Painted Sound” is not a cycle about guitars.

It is a work about resonance.

About the traces that music, memory, time and emotion leave behind within materials.

Each work carries its own emotional temperature:
some explode,
some whisper,
some continue burning slowly beneath the surface.

Throughout the cycle, the energy gradually shifts:
from chaos toward atmosphere,
from surface toward depth,
from immediate expression toward lingering presence.

The instruments are not decorated — they are transformed.

Traces of use, repairs, fractures and patina remain visible,
not as imperfections,
but as part of their story.

With every new work, PAINTED SOUND expands beyond the instrument itself :
into spaces,
encounters,
architecture,
stages,
clubs,
collections
and public contexts.

The works begin to form relationships.

Between sound and silence.

Between object and memory.

Between artist and observer.

What began as an intuitive painterly process increasingly evolves into an open visual archive of music, material, light and lived experience.

Some works carry the energy of rock’n’roll.

Others evoke abandoned jazz clubs, nocturnal streets, cosmic landscapes or fragmented memories.
Yet all follow the same underlying idea :
That sound does not disappear
when the music ends.

It continues to exist as resonance.

In color.

In surface.

In atmosphere.

In space.

PAINTED SOUND is therefore not a finished project.
It is an evolving body of work —
between art, music, design, memory and cultural identity.

A growing archive of visual resonance.

Klaus Kother

Painted Sound