



Excerpt from Seven Days, Day 4



Overview

This animation forms part of *Seven Days*, an ongoing collaboration with composer Matthew Sear. The project brings together hand painting, sound and motion, with each animated section corresponding to a day of creation.

The piece is presented here as an example of time-based visual work, focused on translating painted material into moving form and aligning visual change with sound.

Source material

Day 4 began as a series of hand-painted works on washi paper, using mineral pigment, PVA and silver leaf. These surfaces were made with movement in mind, allowing texture, density and mark-making to guide later animation decisions.

The paintings were treated as raw material rather than finished images, with attention paid to how they might shift, fold or dissolve over time.

Animation process

Painted elements were photographed and prepared in Photoshop, then animated in Adobe After Effects. Individual layers were separated and composited to introduce depth and directional movement.

Timing was adjusted frame by frame to allow motion to emerge gradually, avoiding abrupt transitions. Changes in scale, opacity and position were used to suggest spatial movement without relying on literal perspective.

Relationship between image and sound

Original music by Matthew Sear provides the structural framework for the animation. Visual movement follows the rhythm and phrasing of the score, with moments of alignment and pause used to shape progression.

Sound is treated as the primary organising element, with image responding rather than leading. This approach allows the animation to unfold as a sequence of visual events rather than a narrative illustration.

Outcome

The finished piece brings together painted texture, digital animation and sound as a single system. Static surfaces are extended through time, with motion used sparingly to support rhythm and continuity rather than spectacle.

The work demonstrates a process-led approach to animation, where material qualities are preserved and transformed through controlled digital techniques.