

Nanopublication – Visual Fusion of Bird and Instrument

by Arnaud Quercy [2] · Bird, Jam Blues – July- 1952 · 2024



CLAIM 2: VISUAL FUSION OF BIRD AND INSTRUMENT

I construct the figure in this painting as a fusion of the animal and the music – the bird [1] and the keyboard become a single body. Piano keys are integrated directly into the bird's torso, a line extends from the beak suggesting a reed or mouthpiece, and the geometric assembly of shapes gives the figure a jaunty, upright posture that evokes a performer's confidence. The double meaning of "Bird" – the creature and Parker's nickname – collapses into a single visual form where the musician is the animal is the instrument.

CONTEXT

The painting depicts a compact, geometric bird figure assembled from bold, flat shapes in watercolor. The body is dominated by a warm ochre-yellow field; the head combines a grey rounded form with a vivid blue element suggesting a crown or crest; and the overall silhouette reads immediately as a bird – upright, alert, slightly jaunty. But within this recognizable figure, musical iconography is embedded. Black rectangular forms on the torso read unmistakably as piano keys. A fine line extending from the beak area suggests a reed, a mouthpiece, or the act of blowing – the breath that makes music.

This visual strategy operates through a pun that is both playful and precise. Charlie Parker was "Bird" – the nickname inseparable from the musician. By depicting an actual bird

whose body contains musical elements, I collapse the metaphor into a literal image. The creature does not merely represent Parker; it embodies the fusion of animal grace and musical virtuosity that the nickname always implied. The piano keys in particular create a secondary layer: Parker was a saxophonist, not a pianist, but the keyboard is the instrument of harmony itself – the universal reference point for all musicians, and the instrument through which I encounter harmony in my own practice.

The geometric construction – angular shapes, clean edges, bold color blocks – gives the figure a confidence and presence that mirrors what I hear in Parker's playing: compact, decisive, every note placed with intention. The bird stands on thin black legs with an almost cocky posture, grounded yet light, ready to take flight or to play.

REFERENCES

[1] Quercy, A. (2024). Bird, Jam Blues – July- 1952. AQC0567. Watercolor on Paper, 10 × 15 cm. Untamed Creations collection. <https://arnaudquercy.art/media/2024/01/bird-jam-blues-july-1952-watercolor-by-arnaud-quercy-aqc0567-6ck.webp>

[2] Quercy, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>

WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Series: Jazz Legends
Collection: Untamed Creations
Technique: Watercolor

EXHIBITIONS

Rencontres au Marché de la Création (2024-04-23 → 2024-12-31, Marché de la Création – Paris Montparnasse, Paris)
Salon d'art contemporain – Metamorphose, Paris (2024-12-26 → 2025-01-05, Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris)
Permanent Collection 2025 – Resonance in Form (2025-01-01 → 2025-12-31, arnaudquercy.art, Paris)

OTHER WORKS IN THIS SERIES

Blue Monk Ron Carter
Elvin Jones, Jazz Machine
Birth of The Bop – Bud Powell, 1924 –1966
The Hands of Scott Lafaro
Ornithology
Birks Works
Nefertiti La Belle est venue

The Saxophonist
Charles Mingus
Parisian Thoroughfare
BIRD (Charlie Parker)

DOCUMENTED AT

Catalogue Raisonné — Bird, Jam Blues - July- 1952 — Bird, Jam Blues — July 1952 — Jazz-Inspired Watercolor — Arnaud Quercy (2024)
Gallery — Bird, Jam Blues - July- 1952
Nanopublication — Bird, Jam Blues - July- 1952 — Physical Specifications
Nanopublication — Bird, Jam Blues - July- 1952 — Digital Image Documentation - aqc0567_img_full_1536x2048_webp
Nanopublication — Bird, Jam Blues - July- 1952 — Computational Image Analysis - AQC0567
Nanopublication — Bird, Jam Blues - July- 1952 — A Tribute to Charlie Parker and the 1952 Jam Session
Nanopublication — Bird, Jam Blues - July- 1952 — Untamed Creations — Free Expression Beyond Systematic Transliteration

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

Charlie Parker tribute watercolor
Untamed Creations collection
jazz-inspired geometric abstraction bebop visual art
ochre-yellow blue composition watercolor on paper
contemporary jazz art Arnaud Quercy
bird figure painting small format watercolor

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	practitioner testimony
Methodology	figurative construction
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

b898dbffaf896f08fa4c5f893f559b929f065ccb4b911f80efd3e01d991550e6

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