

## REFLECTIONS ON TAO and LA SYLPHIDE - 2017

**TAO – according to the Oxford dictionary** - (Chinese, the way) The source and principle of the cosmic order; the constant flow of the life force ([chi](#)) in unceasing change. As a cosmic principle the *tao* bears some similarity to [logos](#), although it is also elusive, deep, and obscure and cannot be expressed in words. The *tao* of humanity and that of the universe are one, and in this lies the key to a completely satisfying and harmonious human existence. The ‘easy way’ of [Taoism](#) is one of being in tune with nature and the universe. In [Confucianism](#) the *tao* is the way of the moral law, or the path by which a fully moral existence is achieved.

These paintings were very difficult to execute as I was trying to visually balance the dark and the light -- the opposites. Visually it's very difficult to make a white/blank space have the same weight, and importance as the dark space. I hope I achieved this in these paintings. It is an idea that intrigues me and presents a difficult challenge.

These white and black spaces have great depth and nuances within and beneath – they are not simple, in fact, quite elaborate.