

COLLECTION

# The Ballroom

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*Arnaud Quercy*

0 works

Art Quam Anima Publishing

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What if dance could be captured not in movement but in pure visual rhythm? The Ballroom transforms the ephemeral art of partner dance into a series of twelve digital compositions, each translating specific dance techniques and musical forms into abstract visual language. This collection explores how the structured improvisation of ballroom dance—its precise steps and spontaneous partnerships—can find expression through color, form, and digital artistry. Each piece in the collection takes its title from both a dance move and its corresponding musical style, creating a dual translation from kinesthetic to visual experience. The works span the full spectrum of ballroom tradition, from the elegant formality of classical dances to the passionate intensity of Latin rhythms, from the playful energy of swing to the sophisticated complexity of contemporary fusion.

Wizard Steps - choreography of smiles captures the magical quality of perfect partnership, where technical precision dissolves into pure joy. The piece suggests that mastery in dance, as in art, involves a kind of alchemy—transforming learned technique into something that appears effortless and enchanted.

The ballroom - Progressive walks on a Rumba explores the fundamental paradox of the rumba: how walking can become dance, how the simplest movements can carry the weight of romance and passion. The work translates the rumba's characteristic slow-quick-quick rhythm into visual patterns that seem to pulse with Latin heat.

Face to face - Chasse to The Right on a Paso Doble embodies the dramatic intensity of Spanish dance tradition. The paso doble's theatrical narrative—matador and cape, pursuit and evasion—finds expression in bold compositional choices that speak to power, control, and the dance between dominance and submission.

Hip to hip - curved feather on a slowfox captures the smooth sophistication of foxtrot, where partners move as one entity across the floor. The "curved feather" becomes a metaphor for grace under pressure, the ability to maintain elegance while navigating complex spatial relationships.

Lively laughs - duple time on a gigue brings historical dance into contemporary expression. The gigue's ancient rhythms, with their compound meter and spirited energy, translate into visual celebrations of pure joy—dance as expression of life's fundamental exuberance.

Boppy dance - Rock steps on a Jive explores the rebellious energy of swing culture, where traditional ballroom conventions meet jazz-age innovation. The jive's characteristic rock step becomes a visual metaphor for the tension between stability and movement, tradition and revolution.

Drag - Her-Around - Three steps around a Mambo delves into the complex gender dynamics of partner dance. The mambo's syncopated rhythms and close partnership require both control and surrender, creating visual tensions that speak to broader questions of leadership, following, and mutual respect.

36 steps - Forward cross on a Tango captures the Argentine tango's dramatic intensity, where each step carries emotional weight. The forward cross—a fundamental tango movement—becomes a visual exploration of advance and retreat, passion and restraint.

Dance of thieves - Taking another dancer's partner on a Lindy Hop celebrates the playful, social aspect of swing dance culture. The "stealing" of partners reflects the Lindy Hop's democratic spirit, where the dance floor becomes a space of constant, joyful exchange.

Around the world with two hands - Three and four on a Cha-cha-cha translates the cha-cha's Cuban sensuality into visual rhythm. The "three and four" beats that define the dance become a meditation on syncopation, on finding passion within structure.

Slow waltz - Counting one, two, three on a Walking Boston returns to ballroom's foundational form. The waltz's eternal triple meter becomes a visual exploration of time itself—how three beats can contain an entire universe of romantic possibility.

Mirror Dansers - Starting on the third beat on a Mazurka explores the Polish folk dance tradition, where partners mirror each other's movements in perfect synchrony. The work investigates how individual expression can merge into collective beauty without losing personal identity.

The Ballroom demonstrates that dance, like music, possesses an inherent visual dimension that transcends its physical manifestation. These digital compositions reveal the geometric beauty underlying ballroom tradition, the mathematical precision that enables seemingly spontaneous expression. The collection suggests that all art forms share fundamental principles of rhythm, proportion, and partnership—whether between dancers, between artist and medium, or between tradition and innovation.

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