

Nanopublication — Spread Voicing as Compositional Structure

by Arnaud Quercy [2] · F minor - Research on Harmony - Variation 4 · 2024

Claim 2: Spread Voicing as Compositional Structure

This painting translates the spatial distribution of a spread piano voicing into visual arrangement, with each chord tone given its own area on the paper rather than clustered together.

CONTEXT

When I play an F minor triad as a spread voicing at the piano, the chord tones are distributed across registers — the root low, the fifth high, the minor third occupying its own registral space. Each tone breathes. This registral separation is what I translate into visual composition.

In this study, the blue field representing Ab occupies a prominent central position, vivid and assertive — the minor third defining the chord's quality. The magenta and dark maroon tones (F) anchor the upper right and lower areas, while red (C) appears in concentrated geometric forms. The dark slate-blue ground creates distance between the color zones, functioning as the silence between chord tones in an open voicing. Rather than blending the three colors into a unified field, the composition preserves the separations — the visual equivalent of spread voicing at the keyboard.

This is a simple étude, part of my ongoing daily practice of translating piano voicings into visual composition. Each variation in the series approaches the same harmonic material with a different spatial arrangement, exploring how the same three tones can be distributed differently across the picture plane while maintaining the chord's identity.

REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2024). F minor - Research on Harmony - Variation 4 — Catalog raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0598.html>
- [2] Quercy, A. (2025). ORCID <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2662-7790>
- [3] Quercy, A. (2024). F minor - Research on Harmony - Variation 4 - Artwork Catalog. https://artquamanima.com/en/artworks/2024/01/f-minor-research-on-harmony-variation-4_6os.html

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	artistic statement
Voice	first person
Epistemic status	practitioner testimony
Methodology	studio practice
Certainty	high

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

aa917f3cef45192f5c7aace45bc8c65d-f1897b7ee1abafe713e27316d06b78a9

Artist	Arnaud Quercy
Date	2024
Collection	Synesthetic Explorations
Certificate	20240602-0094
Asset code	AQC0598
Version	1
Published	2026-04-06

© 2026 Multimodal Institute

Published by: Art Quam Anima Publishing New York LLC — publishing.artquamanima.com

Date of publication: 2026-04-07

Persistent URI: <https://multimodal.institute/en/nanopubs/2026/02/AQC0598-spread-voicing-as-compositional-structure.pdf>

Content available under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 License (CC BY-NC 4.0)