

# shimmering

Sounds can shimmer, and so can light.

There are often parallels between sound and light – music and painting share terminology, sounds have colours (white noise, Kind of Blue), colour can be loud, both carry information.

Shimmering is a perpetual oscillation, a subtle instability that never collapses into itself. The most beautiful kind of shimmering is that of a star or a quivering cello in Quartet for the End of Time; the object has some permanence (the note hangs, the star remains) but it is in constant flux and never sits still.

A Bridget Riley shimmers, a lot of post-war American paintings do too – they're engineered to keep the eye moving, but in one place.

The reciprocity of static and dynamic is what drives these artworks and it is a subset of a possible definition of Art: the reciprocity of being and not being (Badiou).

Great artworks heighten their own fragility by various means. A thing that shimmers is fragile but paradoxically permanent; its fragility is intense and moves us.

When the eye fills with tears, everything shimmers.