

WORK INSPIRED BY *AZOTH OF THE PHILOSOPHERS*

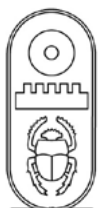
Nikki Schiro, SRC



Nikki Schiro, Dissolution: An Operation Taking Place In The Innermost Parts.

Since my earliest memories, I have been preoccupied with the human condition. The art I make is, on some level, a visual diary of my explorations of this subject.

Disturbed by social and political paradigms, I began asking myself: How could my art, in the Rosicrucian context, “contribute to Peace,” a future where people were reconnected to themselves, to each other, and to nature? I thought, to get past cognitive dissonance, that I might look to higher symbolism—images that nudged at the heart and soul, overriding the petty, mundane identifications of the ego. I began to (re)introduce ancient, mystical, and alchemical principles that I believe can, do, and will serve humanity, today and always. The works in this grouping are from a series based on the *Azoth of the Philosophers*, an alchemical image that breaks down the steps of transmutation, a path to achieve the philosopher’s stone, spiritual enlightenment, or the Rose+Croix state.



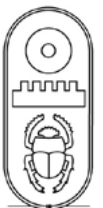


Nikki Schiro, Androgenous Azoth.

The Grand Secretary propositioned a group of Rosicrucian artists to re-render the *Azoth of the Philosophers* drawing with a philosopher that was more androgynous. I leaned into an Egyptian-Greek aesthetic, which seemed to nicely connect with our Order's origins, and tried to keep the race neutral. The King and Queen became people of color, since existing alchemical images already well represent Caucasian figures.



Nikki Schiro, Azoth or The Way to the Hidden Gold.





Nikki Schiro, Calcination: Igniting the Fire of Introspection.



Nikki Schiro, Fermentation: You Will Discover.