The idea of science and art being one entity may seem contradictory in some cases, but University of Louisiana at Lafayette visual arts professor Steven Breaux is forcing them together in his work.

"To me, this is an expression of what reality is," Breaux said, "but nobody pays attention to it really, but if you're a scientist and you have an equation and it works in certain ways, it's taken very seriously and I think that there is an imbalance."

Breaux added he's "doing an experiment" by "relating the artistic process to the scientific method" in an effort to find the balance in the juxtaposition.

The 65-year-old dove head first into research to find this balance. He said compiling graphs and researching complex science, such as David Bohm and Basil Hiley's quantum theory, contributed to his inspiration for his piece titled "Effective Electric Moments for Different States."

This piece consists of two large gessoed, unstretched canvas panels, which hang side by side.

The left canvas includes vertical brush strokes varying in width, starting with three strokes of orange, four strokes of different greens, followed by indigos in the center, with additional greens around it.

The right canvas has a dark green border, thick on the left and bottom right side, and thin on the top portion of the panel. An array of blue strokes fan over the panel, starting at the bottom left and stretching across.

Sprouting from the orange strokes on the left panel and stretching onto the right panel is a series of skinny pinkish lines, and sporadic orange dots across both panels, resembling a graph.

Surrounding both panels are the sheets of paper that contributed to the inspiration and research for the piece, all of which help merge subjective and objective interpretations, forming one entity.

"I wanted to get involved with the subjective, so I did small paintings that fully built up to a large one," Breaux said. "The side panel on the left is really how technology has figured out how when you do a scan, 'What is the difference between a painted brush stroke and that same brush stroke scanned?' And that's really what I've been getting into."

He explained the blue portions on the left panel represents a graph about time, particularly how effects diminish with time. He said the orange dots came from a picture of a plant in his yard. He took a photograph of it and put a dot where each blossom was, then took the plant away and used the pattern in his art.

"The dots to me are symbolic of the spontaneous spots those blossoms happened, but they are meaningful," Breaux said with some sentimentality. "In a scientific way, it would be considered random but I'm saying as an artist, if I'm painting a plant, those things are important."

"Effective Electric Moments for Different States" currently hangs in the UL Lafayette exhibition "One Work, One Text." in Fletcher Hall. Christopher Bennett, assistant professor of art history at UL Lafayette, curated the exhibition and said he believes Breaux has something "unique" about his work; something that seems to be intriguing in both the art and experimental science world.

After completing this piece, Breaux said he decided it was time to take his scientific research one artistic step further.

He compiled his research into an abstract, "Waking Space: The Emerging Art Object, Quantum Theory, and Algorithmic Art." This piece includes analogies between certain quantum physics and artistic experiments.

In 2015, after submitting his abstract, Breaux was invited to the Science of Consciousness Conference in Helsinki to discuss his work, which was later published.

"I was totally freaked out," Breaux said. "They had like cognitive scientists, neuroscientists, quantum physicists and they had this little section for art and humanities and I snuck in there."

He met Basil Hiley, one of the physicists who developed the theory he studied for the "Effective Electric" piece, and said Hiley's enthusiasm about his art gave him the confidence to continue pursuing his artistic direction.

"I got to sit with Basil Hiley for 15 minutes and I was waiting for him to say 'yeah it's all right' but instead he said that is was exactly the way he and Bohm thought about it in a general sense outside of quantum theory," Breaux said.

"I was totally prepared to be crushed, but I'm sitting there and he was getting really excited. When he was talking to me I almost felt out of body, because — are you serious? It was unbelievable for me, it gave me the confidence to keep going in