

Artist's Statement

True Marks

True Marks are mixed media works on paper that play with gestural marks and geometric shapes in ways that deliberately demonstrate how the artist, the media, and paper all contribute to the final drawings.

Mark making (or the lack thereof) is the personal expression of an artist. When I first drew intuitively, the primary mark that I made was a loop. I found that continuous looping created a rhythm for my hand and for my mind. Over time the loop transformed into hand writing, the words of my own poems written across themselves in my paintings to obscure their meaning and emphasize visual elements. This gestural loop was the first mark that I recognized as my own.

Working on Triads, a series about my frustration with viewers searching for realistic objects within my abstract work, I used three red squares to define the flat plane of the paper; what appeared in front of or behind the red squares was an illusion. Subsequently it seemed natural to include at least one red square or rectangle in my paintings and drawings. The red square/rectangle became the second mark that I claim as a personal element in my work.

In True Marks, I concentrated on using these two forms. However, I also allowed water, ink, and paint upon paper to act upon the marks, expressing the mediums' inherent physical tendencies. The drawings then are about my personal marks and the materials that created them.

Taken together, the geometric shapes and the gestural strokes refer to the rational and the emotional aspects of being human, that ancient dichotomy. These marks and the history of their appearance in my work are truly an expression of the complexities of life: words, illusion, and uncertain truths.

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