

Artist's Statement

True Marks: Thorns

In True Marks, I concentrated on using two forms: a loop and red squares. Taken together, the gestural stroke and geometric shapes refer to the rational and the emotional aspects of being human. These personal marks and the history of their appearance in my work are an expression of the complexities of life: words, illusion, and uncertain truths.

If mark making is the personal expression of an artist, then both the artist and the marks themselves become vulnerable to criticism. In contemporary society confidence and assertiveness are highly valued characteristics; vulnerability is not. Vulnerability presumes that one must guard the self to maintain a confident posture before others and, rather than feeling defenseless, we humans put up personal barriers to protect our inner selves.

The torn-paper vertical lines in the foreground of True Marks: Thorns represent our need for protective cover as we go out and about with strangers in a sometimes fearful world.

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