

BETWEEN SPACES

Dancing Dog Bear

LESLEY ANDERSON

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The work began as an exercise in letting go. It began as an attempt to relinquish my grip on the painted mark, something that I felt had become over considered and too deliberate. I switched from oil paint to ink to experience a different behavior in paint, one that would run and bleed freely. The aim was to move into unfamiliar territory, with the hope of experiencing something new.

The first few paintings to emerge from this exercise were still rigid or fussy looking. I was trying too hard to dictate what the paint should do. As I worked, I increasingly became less interested in what I was doing, and more interested in what the paint was doing. I could pour the ink and watch it creep around the paper, pushing up against other areas of ink, sometimes racing across the image, other times barely inching its way along. I enjoyed initiating the painting, then discovering what the painting could become without my hand in it at all. The development of the work was dependent on the paint and how it changed. I would leave pools of ink and water to sit for days, to watch the formations they created when the pools finally dried. The work developed on its own in many ways, completely independent of my interaction

with it. I could leave the painting to its own devices and return to a different work altogether. This lack of control left me in anticipation of what the paint would decide. Sometimes, I would return to an inky mess. I found myself tied to an unpredictable process that changed the way I made paintings and how I perceived the act of making art.

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Lesley Anderson was born in Ontario and raised in British Columbia. Since graduating from Emily Carr University of Art + Design, she has been training to be a master printer. An avid painter and printmaker, Lesley lives and works in Vancouver.