

Inspired by my students' enthusiasm for exploring new materials and learning about abstract art, I decided to embrace the same challenge in my own artistic practice. Working in 2D is unfamiliar, exciting territory as a trained 3-D artist. Deconstructing the intricate mechanisms of watches and mechanical tin toys, my work begins with structured shapes that often naturally evolve into more organic forms. Working within a restricted palette of monochrome tones and minimal moments of green or blue, I layer pencil layouts with ink, washes, watercolors, charcoal, and pastels – often painting, directly into the charcoal to see how wet and dry media collide. My experience creating this work captures for me the same openness, enthusiasm, and mindset of discovery that I champion in my own classroom.

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