

Jamie Farrell
Artist's Statement

The work on display represents my attempts to create while in a flow state without pretext or the self-imposed pressure of creating for a potential viewer. It is a therapeutic way of working, a form of play, that allows me to release myself from overthinking, quiet my inner critic, and be fully present with what I am doing. The results are both logical and illogical, deliberate and haphazard, and a balance of automatic action with a yielding to the behavior of material. Only after I complete a piece do I allow myself to intuit what has emerged from my subconscious and appraise its visual caliber. It can take months for me to settle on a response. In the meantime, I go back to my enjoyment of the process and begin again.

When I lead an Art Club session for children at the Winthrop Public Library I want the kids to feel the freedom to be themselves. My goal is to teach something, but also to stave off, for just a little longer, the outwardly imposed idea that only some people are “good” at making art and the rest of us should just not bother. So while I might offer a brief art history lesson, a process demonstration, and an example of something I have made, I encourage the kids to engage with the materials in their own way. As they work, I do my best to ensure that they get the message, through ongoing validation, that anything they create is successful artmaking. The majority of the time, their ideas, experimentation, and results far surpass what I might envision. The kids who participate in Art Club inspire me with their ability to engage in creative expression without inhibition and serve as an ongoing reminder of what can happen when you approach artmaking with joyful abandon.