

Erin Cooke

Artist Statement

Throughout my life I subconsciously veered toward repetition. As I grew up and became more aware of my art abilities, I realized just how much I enjoyed repetition in my artwork. More specifically, I like repeating black lines that guide the eye around the work. In my opinion, the repetition of black lines is extremely satisfying and makes me feel calm. I like when it kind of hurts your eyes to look at my work for too long. I played around with this style in high school, but ended up drifting away from it as I got to college. Now that I am older and more experienced, I know that I love intricate and repetitive designs and line work.

As much as I love line work, I also love drippy and poured paint. I started experimenting with pouring paint from a dustpan during my junior year, and have not stopped since. I absolutely love the playfulness and abstraction the colors and flowing paint makes. It adds just a bit of looseness and freedom on top of the tight black lines underneath. I have come to realize just how much I prefer the concentration of the lines together with the bright colors and mixture of paint on top. When I add the flowing passages of paint from the pan, most of the marks are intentional. In most of my work, I usually pour the paint from one corner to the other. I believe this allows the background to be broken up and helps the viewer's eye travel smoothly across the painting, going deeper and deeper into it. I enjoy painting on bigger canvases because there is more room to work with and there's more area to make cool marks happen, even if it is by accident.

In the beginning of my college art career, I struggled with making art for myself, rather than for someone else. I found it difficult to figure out what I was interested in producing, resulting in a desire to stop making art. As the end of my junior year approached, I found myself

enjoying the process of making art because I was not trying to fit into a box of constraints. I make art because it is fun and I have allowed myself to have freedom in what I create. My goal is for people viewing my work to see and feel the freedom and enjoyment of my paintings, just as I have come to do.