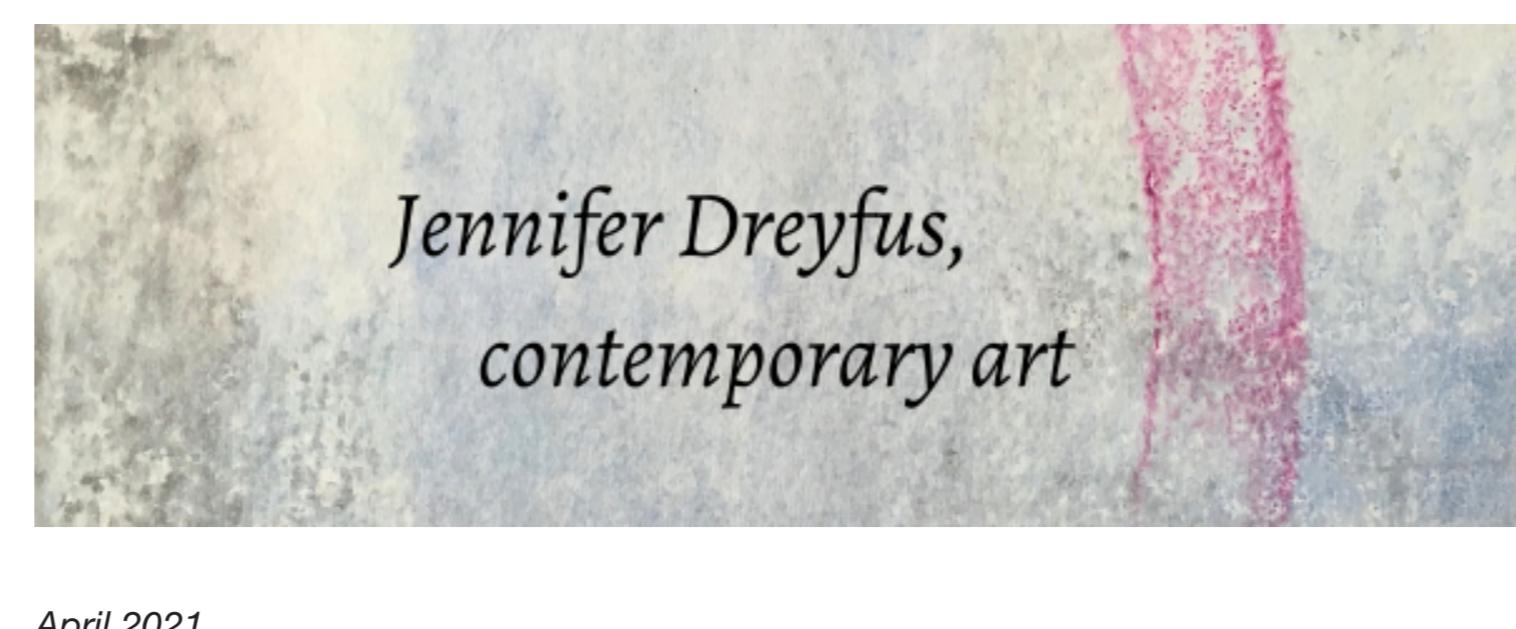


[View this email in your browser](#)

April 2021

I am so pleased that you've stuck with me for the second edition of the newsletter (or recently joined). I would enjoy hearing from you about what you like and don't like about the format. Please share with friends and family as I grow my network. Of course, you can follow me on social media through the links at the bottom of the newsletter.

Jennifer

How do I know when a painting is done?

Art for me is about capturing the moments in life along the way. As I experience it, life is a series of ups and downs, waves that you ride through. No moment is like the preceding one or the one to follow. You don't know what is coming. I seek to capture something in that moment - a slice of time - a piece of a day. I seek to portray the feeling of a moment in its tranquility, its turbulence or its tension.

Since I can remember, being 'in this moment' has been a challenge in my life. Being right here, right now is not easy. It's hard not go flying off into the future of 'what might be' or fixated on the past of 'what was.' The work became about accepting the uncontrollability of the future. Finding ways of riding the waves and navigating the unpredictability of life has been a constant theme in my world.

I don't paint to make the viewer feel or react in a specific way. For me, it is more about trying to capture the emotions contained in a moment in time and putting it down on paper. The challenge is to make art that symbolizes one of the myriad of emotions that each of us, as humans, experience - everything from balance, to uncertainty, hope, tension and so much more. Just a glimpse at those emotions on paper from that one moment.

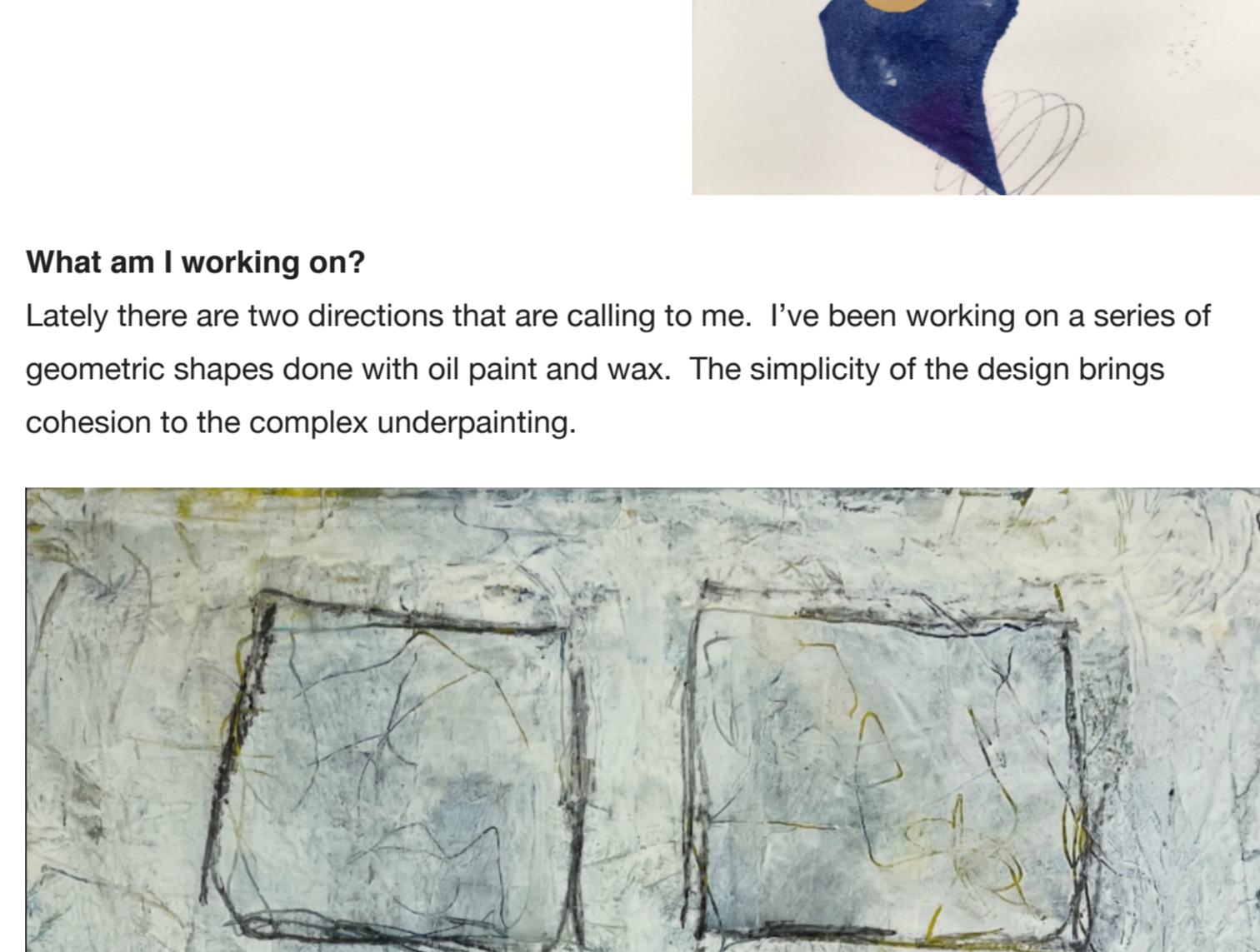
All that said, a painting is done for me when it resolves itself.

It captures my emotional perception of a moment in time.

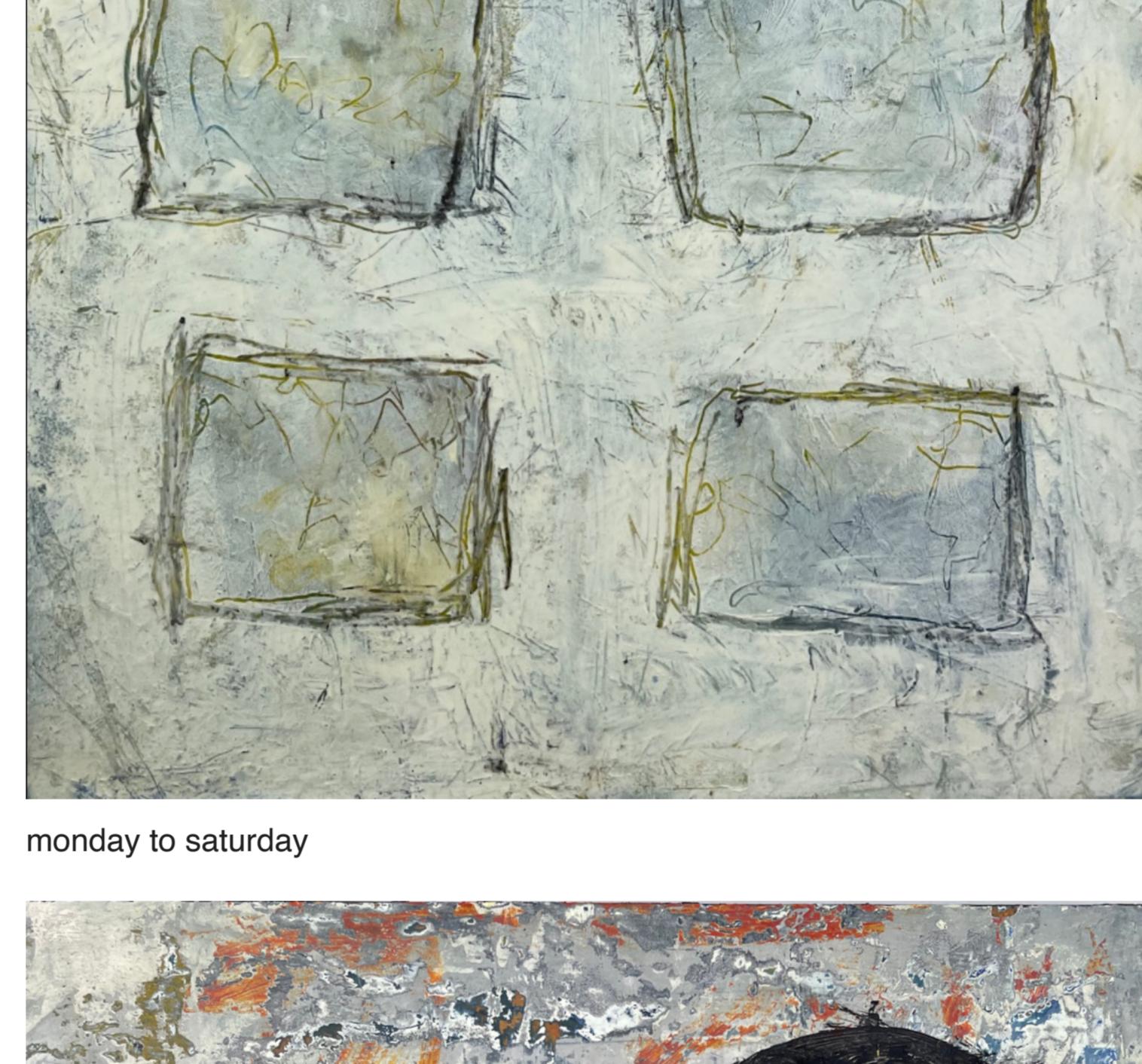
[check out my website](#)**Making a color pop**

Artists use complementary colors to make a color stand out or pop. Below is one of my collages where placing orange and blue near each other makes each color more intense. The picture on the left is just the bottom blue section of an acrylic painting. The picture on the right shows the full piece and you can see how the blue is more vibrant due to the proximity to the orange/orange brown. Something you might not think would work can create excitement.

Say there is a room decorated in various shades of brown/orange. Its nice but nothing seems exciting or interesting in the room. Try adding pillows in a bright blue. This works because blue is the complement of brown/orange. Putting blue next to orange makes both colors seem more vibrant. Every color has a complementary color ([check this out](#) for more information). Decorators use this technique in many situations. See striking examples by scrolling down to the bottom of [this page](#). Of course, you can be more subtle than this. The [same page](#) also shows how to use three colors (split complements) to achieve a vibrant color scheme.

**What am I working on?**

Lately there are two directions that are calling to me. I've been working on a series of geometric shapes done with oil paint and wax. The simplicity of the design brings cohesion to the complex underpainting.

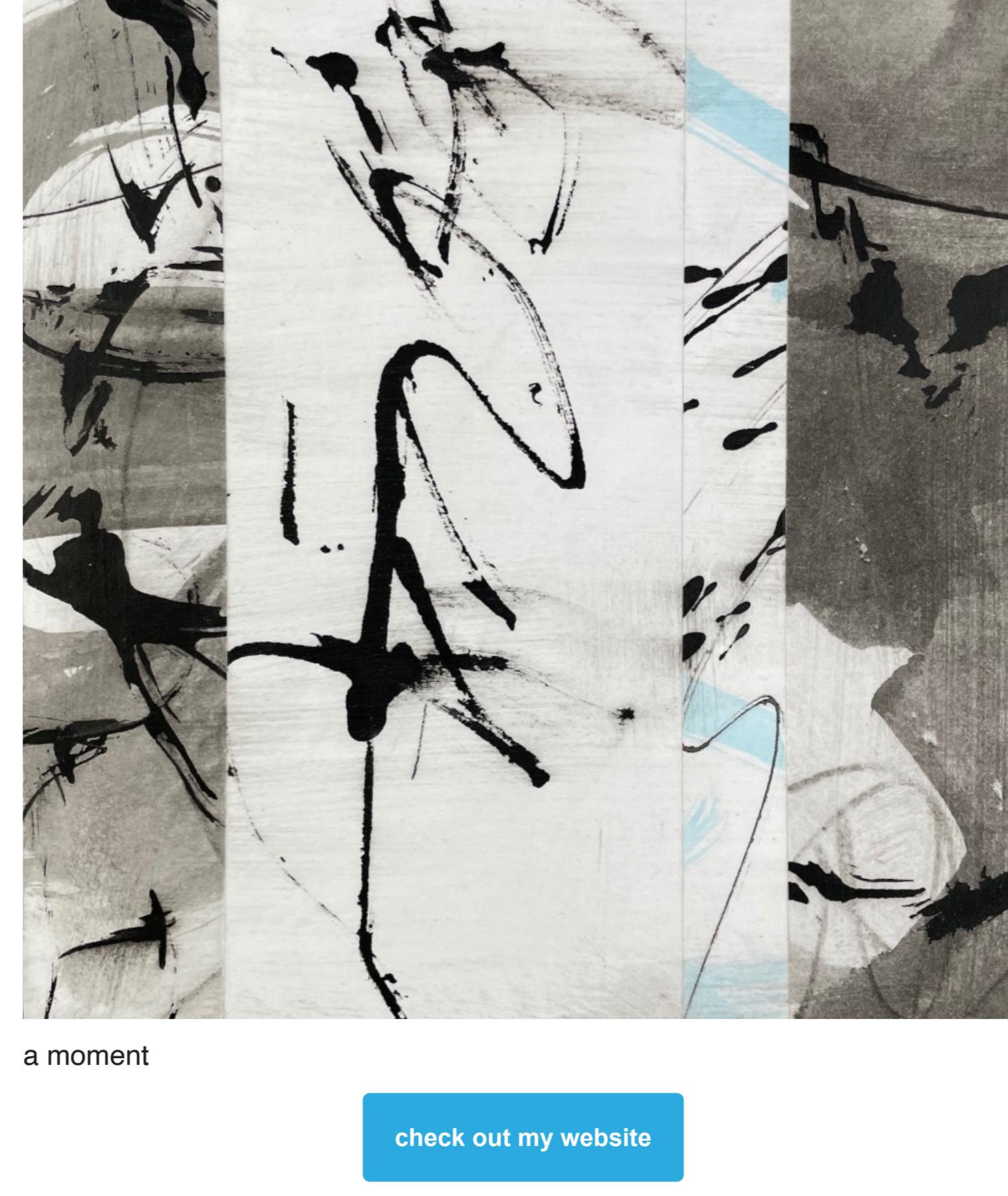


monday to saturday



heart breath

I've also been incorporating some of the techniques I learned in the Zen and Big Brush workshop. Many of these are collages. Alternately, ink drawings may form the foundation for an underpainting where wax and oil are then added to the top layers. Underpaintings are a great way to add depth and texture to a work. I'm excited to see where these two different directions take me.

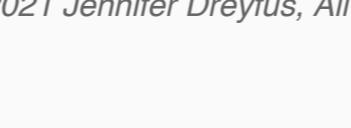


a moment

[check out my website](#)**Moment of Zen**

When our mind is open and fresh, we see beauty everywhere, including within ourselves. There's a sense of savoring the uniqueness of each moment. Things have never been just the way they are now. Nor will they ever be just this way again. We're in tune with the transience of the world, with its poignancy and its profound richness.

Pema Chödrön



Copyright © 2021 Jennifer Dreyfus. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Grow your business with mailchimp