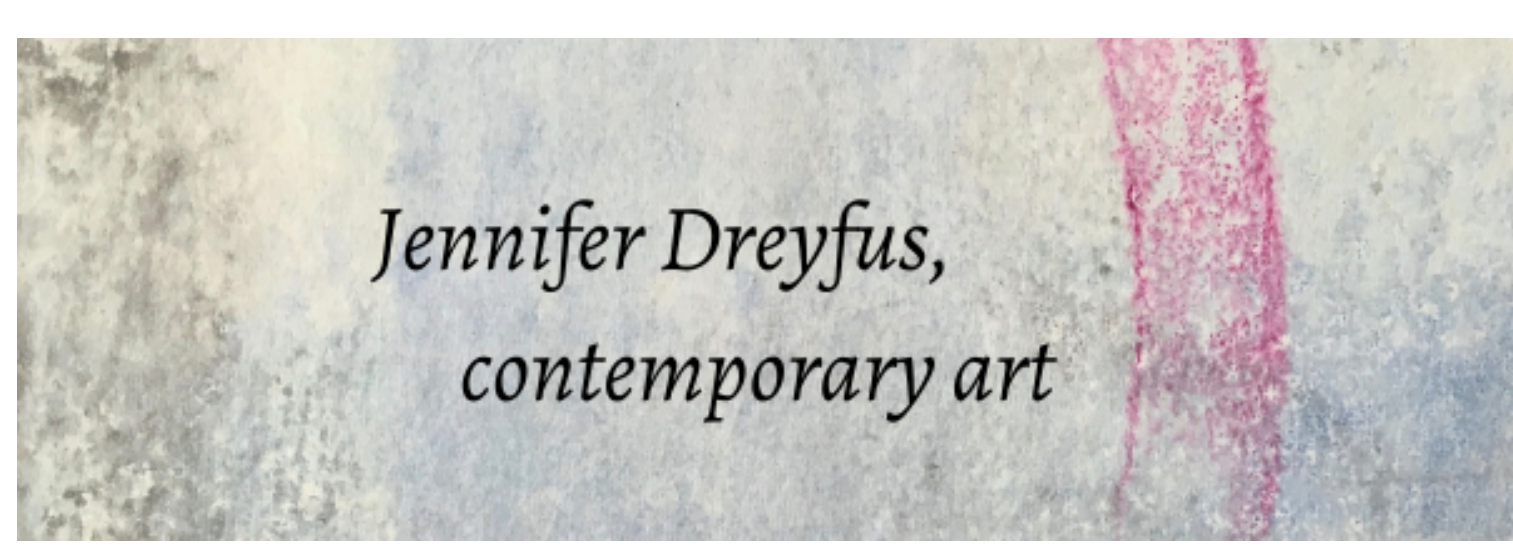


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June 2023

Welcome to my newsletter. I enjoy hearing your thoughts on topics for future newsletters. Feel free to send me an email ([jdreyfus99@gmail.com](mailto:jdreyfus99@gmail.com)). If you haven't already, you can follow me on social media at [#jendreyfusart](#) or by using the links at the bottom of this newsletter.

Jennifer

[check out my website](#)

**Part 1 - Who's your favorite artist and why?**

Artists ask each other the 'favorite artist' question frequently trying to get a handle on influences. I've been asked that by viewers as well and, for me, the answer is easy – Julie Mehretu and Mark Bradford. It's not that I try to paint like either of them, follow similar techniques or seek to produce comparable work. Most often, viewers focus on the ways in which each of these artists use art to comment on social or political conditions, telling the viewer their personal reactions to the world in which we live. Their experiences are evident in their work. I also admire how each of these artists put themselves deep into their work. Each speaks about their pieces as if creation is essential to their individual life journey. Each puts their essence out in the world in a very public manner. Then, as with all artists, they must let go and allow the viewer to interpret their work in light of the viewer's own personal experience.

*The reason we create art isn't with the intention of making something useful for someone else. We create to express who we are. Who we are and where we are on our journey... Our point of view doesn't have to be coherent. And it's rarely simple. Whatever our perspective, so long as we share it, unaltered and undoctored, we succeed in art's fundamental purpose. When making art, we create a mirror in which someone may see their own hidden reflection.*

Rick Rubin, The Creative Act: A Way of Being

Below, I've provided some information on Mark Bradford. My August newsletter will highlight Julie Mehretu.

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Bradford is both an additive and a subtractive artist, meaning that he builds up many layers and then often takes them away again. He has frequently worked with maps or with long horizontals (see Pickett's Charge below). His grid-like structures provide order to the often disparate and unusual elements included in his work.

More resources to learn about Mark Bradford:

- Bradford's work is on display at [Hauser & Wirth](#) in New York City until late July 2023.
- One of his more famous collage works – [Pickett's Charge](#) – is on permanent display at the Hirschhorn in Washington DC. A short film on [Pickett's Charge](#) is available (less than 2 minutes).
- Hauser & Wirth's description of him states:

*Mark Bradford (b. 1961 in Los Angeles; lives and works in Los Angeles) is a contemporary artist best known for his large-scale abstract paintings created out of paper. Characterized by its layered formal, material, and conceptual complexity, Bradford's work explores social and political structures that objectify marginalized communities and the bodies of vulnerable populations. Just as essential to Bradford's work is a social engagement practice through which he reframes objectifying societal structures by bringing contemporary art and ideas into communities with limited access to museums and cultural institutions.*

*Using everyday materials and tools from the aisles of the hardware store, Bradford has created a unique artistic language. Referred to frequently as 'social abstraction,' Bradford's work is rooted in his understanding that all materials and techniques are embedded with meaning that precedes their artistic utility. His signature style developed out of his early experimentation with end papers, the small, translucent tissue papers used in hairdressing; he has since experimented with other types of paper, including maps, billboards, movie posters, comic books, and 'merchant posters' that advertise predatory services in economically distressed neighborhoods.*

[Hauser & Wirth](#)

- YouTube Video [Friends in Conversation](#) – Mark Bradford and Sherrilyn Ifill (75 minutes)



Mark Bradford

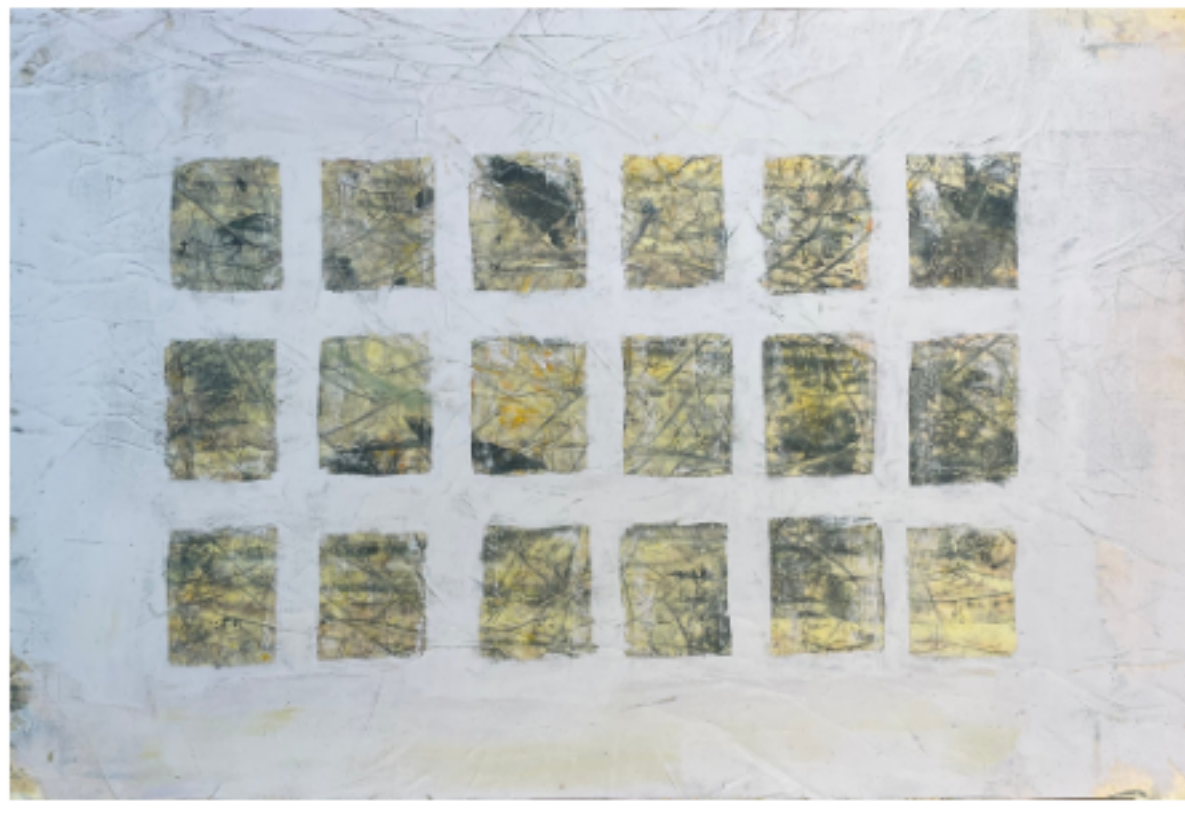
**What I've been up to**

The work of Bradford and Mehretu resonate with me, especially as I've been working on my 'time' series – a body of work based on methodically placed rectangles, each of which contains random, disparate elements. In this series, the viewer is invited to view each rectangle as a time interval that they define – a day, hour, year or...

I've included a few of those paintings below. These are deeply personal pieces speaking to the random occurrences that happen in our lives making each day different from the previous one. Time is perceived differently at various points in our life. Some days fly by, other years drag on. Each of those rectangles in my paintings represent a time interval containing a unique experience - a day full of trouble; a moment when the way we perceive the world shifts forever; a long slog through a project that doesn't seem to end. While the individual rectangles are unique time intervals, together they create a cohesive whole when viewed - almost as if each piece was a calendar.



do I really need to think about this  
12"x 12" cradleboard  
oil, wax & artgraf



waking  
12"h x 18"w on cradleboard  
oil, tissue paper & wax



standing moments  
17"h x 21"w, framed  
oil & wax

[check out my website](#)

**Upcoming shows**

Two pieces are currently on [Artsy.net](#), an online marketplace for art by the world's emerging and established artists. It partners with galleries, museums and other institutions, so an organizational affiliation is required to sell through Artsy. These pieces are offered by Jen Tough Gallery. To view, [CLICK HERE](#) for *world of water* and the *Friday* crossword.

Labor Day weekend I will return to Paint the Town in Kensington.

I will be part of the upcoming Chroma Connections group show in October 2023. Chroma Connections is a group of 6 local women artists. At this point, it looks like the opening reception will be Sunday, October 8. More details about both of these events will follow in the next newsletter.

**Greeting cards**

I have created greeting cards from five of my works. Each packet has five assorted cards with a blank interior and matching envelopes. A packet of cards will be \$20 or 3 packs for \$50. Shipping within the US is a flat \$7.50 regardless of the number of cards ordered.

Should you want to check them out, [CLICK HERE](#).

**A Moment of Zen**

For something a bit different, here are two videos showing the creation of mandalas.

[Making a mandala](#) in 1:22 minutes

[Mandala creation](#) with narration and music over 7 minutes



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