

My current work consists of drawings as layered conversations that are always present in me yet lack concrete verbal translation. They include expressions of some unresolved relationships that I am trying to explore - making peace with the turbulence and seeking some joy within the chaos.

I began by going through old canvases of incomplete work left to me by my mother who died in 2018 after spending never enough time in her life drawing & painting. She focused on mostly still lifes and figurative work. I decided to revive them (not complete them) by applying gesso and beginning again but intentionally leaving some of her painting visible - erasing but reflecting through with abstracted tones or vague imagery. Then I began to draw.... and one drawing led to the next and I found myself continuing the same process with some of my own discarded paintings. Simultaneously I began working on some blank canvas and paper - yet mostly layering just the same.

I more typically work abstractly, creating layered paintings with much color that holds little open space. This very recent work begins a new process that opens conversations and space for me to explore further.

Materials include charcoal, pencil, pen, inks (black, walnut, gold and silver), and gesso.

Debra Samdperil