

Patti Jordan

Artist Statement

Benthic Elegies



The New Jersey shoreline's mark on my subconscious is indelible and comprises the dichotomies of beauty and affliction; mesmerizing is its waxing and waning tide and the tarry, glistening residue it often draws ashore. Of like mind, I cathartically pour and pull ink across surfaces. The reticulation and striations from this back-and-forth motion—"drawing," replicate nascent experiences and materialize as protean forms. As this action occurs over a given duration, I employ change and transformation as a construct to later classify and categorize the emergent imagery. In microbiology, the term "culture" refers to the growth of organisms. Similarly, my pouring methods and isolationist frameworks correlate to the study of "human cultures." These formations of self thus convey a concurrent relationship to more vital concerns, such as the vastness of our social organism. Drawing upon the visual lexicon of medieval manuscripts, ancient cartographies, and abstract iconotexts, my recent bodies of work further metamorphose by intersecting the marine realm with our human ecotone. Glazed ceramic shards reference benthic organisms, such as mollusks and crustacea found at the water's edge, transitional spaces where diverse genera exchange and interact—our intertidal zones. Through the shared taxonomies of self and specimen, *Benthic Elegies* looks to unearth the wonder and multiplicity that arise when different spheres, identities, or species collide—seeking neither a fresh nor saltwater perspective but a wide lens from which to envision an eco-empathic coexistence within our diverse habitats.