

## Marbled Geometry

Statement by Jenniffer Omaitz of JC Marbling

***Marbled Geometry*** is a series of works that explore the fusion of marbling and geometric abstraction. Both practices, marbling and abstract painting have become an integral part of my creative process. I started this series of work in 2017 knowing that it would evolve into new manifestations that combined both practices in unique and fresh ways. In each composition there is a push and pull between which part dominates, marbling or geometry, allowing for the viewer to partake in the process of reading and decoding these layered approaches. Each work acts as a viewport into a different world—one that is sensual, metaphysical, and filled with emotion. The work at times has been inspired by Illuminated manuscripts, paper architecture, the work of international marblers, or trends in abstract painting.

What is marbling? It is the creative act of using watercolor or water-thinned paint that has been dispersed on a bed of thickened water (carrageenan), to create original and ornate designs by either raking, manipulating, or drawing with a thin tool into the water/paint surface. Each print pulled is essentially a monoprint after a sheet of prepared paper or surface is carefully laid on top of the inked water.

Marbling has thick roots, much like the history of painting; its history can be traced to Suminagashi (Japan), then migrated to Turkey, France, Germany, Spain and England, and eventually ending up in America. Each country has a stylistic signature and color palette that is historically tied with marbling. While this is an overly simplified and pared-down version of the history of marbling, stylistic lineages place design at the center of the creative act. Marbling is like two-dimensional yoga for those who practice this ancient craft of visual design. The maker strives for balance and searches for a rhythm between color, design, and fluidity. As an art form marbling has a great lineage and a beautiful history.