

## Kristi Bruce – Journey Through the Rainbow to the Other Side

### Visual Description

This exhibit is of 12 pieces of art created using ink, acrylic and pencil. The colours are transparent and layered and the abstract images feature both natural and geometric shapes. They are large works, mostly hung with one piece to a panel, and surrounded by large white matting and frames. On one panel is a cluster of smaller works without frames. There are four double sided panels, covered with a light grey linen, stacked in a line, running north-south. The panel faces also point north-south. The panels are numbered 1 through 8, with 1 being the northernmost panel, 2 being the south facing panel on the rear side of panel 1, and so on, through panel 8 being the southernmost panel. I will describe a few of the works.

Kristi Bruce notes about her exhibit, the paintings “are feminine and otherworldly with hints of the botanical, celestial, and aquatic combined with machine-made, geometric shapes.

“Each painting is a journey and finding a process that I enjoy is important to me in creating artwork. I find that using ink diluted with isopropyl alcohol allows me to take advantage of the fluid properties of the paint. The result mimics forms in nature. This can be an exciting way to get the first marks on an empty canvas. I love watching the shapes and colors emerge. From there, I edit the painting adding geometric shapes and colour to enhance the composition. I often add circles. I am drawn to the circles I see in nature like sparkles of sunlight on the ocean, raindrops on a leaf, bubbles in a crashing wave or stars in the sky. I feel that this juxtaposition between the organic and geometric creates a dynamic interplay that reflects the world around me.”

Kristi Bruce is a Canadian artist based in the Pacific Northwest, the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. She works mainly in painting, drawing inspiration from our relationship with nature. She received a BFA at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and a Fine Arts Diploma from Langara College. When she was a child, she grew up on a small island. She spent my time exploring the beach, the forest and sleeping under the stars at night. One of her favorite spots on the island was a rocky beach that had teems of sea life under the rocks and in the tidal pools. She loved studying the animals and examining the rocks and seaweed. This idyllic childhood instilled a love for the natural world that has stayed with her throughout her life and influences her artmaking.

#### **Panel 1 – Float (24” x 36”, ink, acrylic and graphite on yupo)**

This shapes in this work generally coalesce into a V shape or like a tree branching out. There is a tip or point at the bottom of the work with two branches reaching up. The predominant colour is a light blue with soft overlapping bubbles on both sides of the V. The other main feature of the work is some very dark blue and dark green sections, most with tiny specks of white. These dark sections start at the bottom point of the V and twine around each other, sending out tiny tentacles into the other colours and patterns. Their scale is also different as they are very small where the more translucent sections are much larger. Behind the dark blue and green and the bubbled blue and other colours like grey, yellowish

green and pink, many of which have geometric patterns within their outside organic shapes. There is a strong interplay between the opaque and the translucent colours and between the geometric shapes and the organic, 'bubble' shapes.

**Panel 2 – 5 small works (3 are 8" x 8", 1 is 6" x 6", and 1 is 9" x 12")**

The second panel has a cluster of five smaller works, in a different format from the larger works in the exhibit. These ones are on un-framed canvases and have a lacquer or resin coating on the face which makes them look shiny and thick, almost like we are looking at the items pictured through a window or a display case or possibly a microscope. In the top left spot is what looks like a tidal pool scene. There are some grey and brown rock-like shapes in the bottom right corner of the piece that have some circular patterns in sharp black lines and white/grey stitching lines. They are topped with anemone-like shapes with bright blue, yellow and green 'feelers'. There are also splashes of pink, and some speckles that look like floating zooplankton or algae. In the lower left spot is the smallest piece which contrasts some small black blobs with white specks against some very pale translucent pink and pinky-blue cloud-like shapes emerging from the black blobs. The middle top spot is one of the mid-sized pieces and has a mountain-like shape in dark grey in the middle (this also suggests a 'mountain' in miniature as a rock beside the water). The outer edge of the mountain is clear and very dark. The interior of this shape is translucent blue and grey with a small circular pattern covering it. Along the bottom edge of this section is a fringe of colourful U shapes in red, blue, green, pink and yellow. The middle bottom is the largest work. Over a plain white background we see 2 spheres, a small one on top of a larger one. Both have a geometric pattern in pink that is reminiscent of Islamic tiling. The other colours on the spheres are subtler and they look a bit like gaseous planets. On the right is just one mid-sized work which has a large black and white ink line drawing of a bean-like or mushroom-like shape covered in a circular pattern. Overtop of this clearly-lined shape is an amorphous shape with black, greens, blues, yellows and a bit of bright orange. These shapes look a bit like sea-grass floating up in the water and have a transparency and fluidity in their shape and are speckled with tiny black specks.

**Panel 5 – Crossing (21" x 25", ink, graphite and acrylic on yupo)**

This work has two turquoise hexagons that dominate the image. One is in the bottom right and one in the mid-left. They are opaque, and painted with crisp lines. Behind them are a series of transparent organic ink shapes in various colours (blues, greens, pink, orange, yellow). These are layered and have a great deal of movement in them. Just above center in the middle of the image is a dark grey solid shape in paint with a pattern of small circles removed from the grey, like holes. Over top is a strip of the same-sized circles in black, as if they have escaped from the grey shape and are spreading across the page.

**Panel 8 – Expand (16" x 20", ink, acrylic and resin)**

This work is in a landscape format. The first thing that draws the eye is a series of six bright orange circles with white circles, that tumble like balls down from the top of the painting on the right hand side. Rising to meet them from the bottom of the frame is a tongue of black dots (as in the previous work) overlaid over a translucent brown shape. From either side of this shape are two arcs – the one going down to the bottom of the painting is like a rainbow, and the one going up comes around again, suggesting a butterfly's wing. On the left side are blue with white circle-patterns and on the right are pale pink with white dots. Trailing off to the bottom left side of the picture are some stripes of pale pink and yellow and green.