

# Marked Inquiry:

## An Exploration in Abstraction & Mark-Making

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2822 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Denver, CO 80206

June 4-19, 2022

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Opening reception Saturday, June 4, 6-10pm

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Bell Projects presents – **Marked Inquiry: An Exploration in Abstraction and Mark-Making** – a two-person exhibition featuring new work by **Angela Craven & Kristina Davies**. This exhibition opens Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and runs through June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Please join us for an opening reception on **June 4<sup>th</sup> from 6pm until 10pm**.

For **Marked Inquiry: An Exploration in Abstraction and Mark-Making**, Angela Craven and Kristina Davies create a series of works that investigates the role of mark-making in their non-representational paintings.

Their question at the outset was, how is mark-making defined in a work of art? What role does it play in abstraction? And how about in their work? This examination led to many others; is mark-making an act of authorship? Will one artist's dots, lines, patterns, or textures be inherently different than another's? How do materials, emotions, and gestures influence the marks made?

Gestural, intuitive mark-making has long been an essential part of their practices. But ultimately, with this body of work, they found themselves diving deeper into the essence of mark-making and exploring its ability to express each artist's humanity, story, and soul.

Their inquiry uncovered that each artist also has a unique set of marks for working collaboratively, as shown in their paintings *Soul and Sediment 1* and *2*. While using the same material, same color, and listening to the same music as they painted, switching back and forth between the two canvases, their gestures and marks are distinct, completely intuitive, coming from somewhere within, as much a part of their DNA as their heart. Looking at the marks on these collaborative paintings, we know which ones are Angela's and which are Kristina's, demonstrating that each human makes their mark, literally and metaphorically. Sometimes we just need a container to witness it.

**Angela Craven** is an artist based in Denver, Colorado. Her colorful expressionist paintings function as tools for communication and reflection. Text and language inspire her work, informing the shapes, textures, and colors visible on her canvases. She studied in Siena, Italy, with painter and video artist Franca Marini and holds a BFA in Painting from Colorado State University. She is a grant recipient from RedLine Contemporary Art Center, The Arvada Arts & Culture Commission, 40 West Arts, and RiNo Art District. Her works have been exhibited in Colorado, New York, and Italy in solo and group shows, including the McNichols Civic Center Building in Denver, the Denver Art Museum as a demo artist, Manhattan Arts International, and Istituto d'Arte di Siena. Angela works out of her studio in Globeville, Denver.

**Kristina Davies** (b. Denver, CO) is a visual artist and educator. She received her Master's in Education: Integrating Teaching Through the Arts in 2010, bringing her two passions together, art and education. After a twenty-five-year teaching career, Kristina opened her art studio in 2019, which is located in Denver's Art District on Santa Fe. She has been a grant recipient from RiNo Art District, an ArtCorp Mentor at RedLine, and is currently teaching an abstract painting workshop at The Gathering Place. She has recently shown her work at the Arvada Center for the Arts, BRDG Project Gallery, The Wolf Den Gallery, and CORE New Art Space. Her works are in private collections in New York, San Francisco, and Denver.



**Angela Craven**  
*Rich Kitsch Stitch* (2022)  
Mixed media on panel  
24x24"



**Kristina Davies**  
*Realm of a Dream*  
Acrylic on canvas  
48x48"



**Angela Craven & Kristina Davies**

*Soul and Sediment 1*

2022

Acrylic on canvas

60x48"



**Angela Craven & Kristina Davies**

*Soul and Sediment 2*

2022

Acrylic on canvas

60x48"

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*Bell Projects* seeks to support local artists and their work by curating and presenting exhibitions on a monthly basis in their gallery space located at 2822 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80206. All exhibitions are free to attend and are open to the public.

For more information, please email [info.bellprojects@gmail.com](mailto:info.bellprojects@gmail.com) or visit [bell-projects.com](http://bell-projects.com)