

Stephen T. Vessels

Press Kit

Stephen T. Vessels

Artist | Author

Contact Information

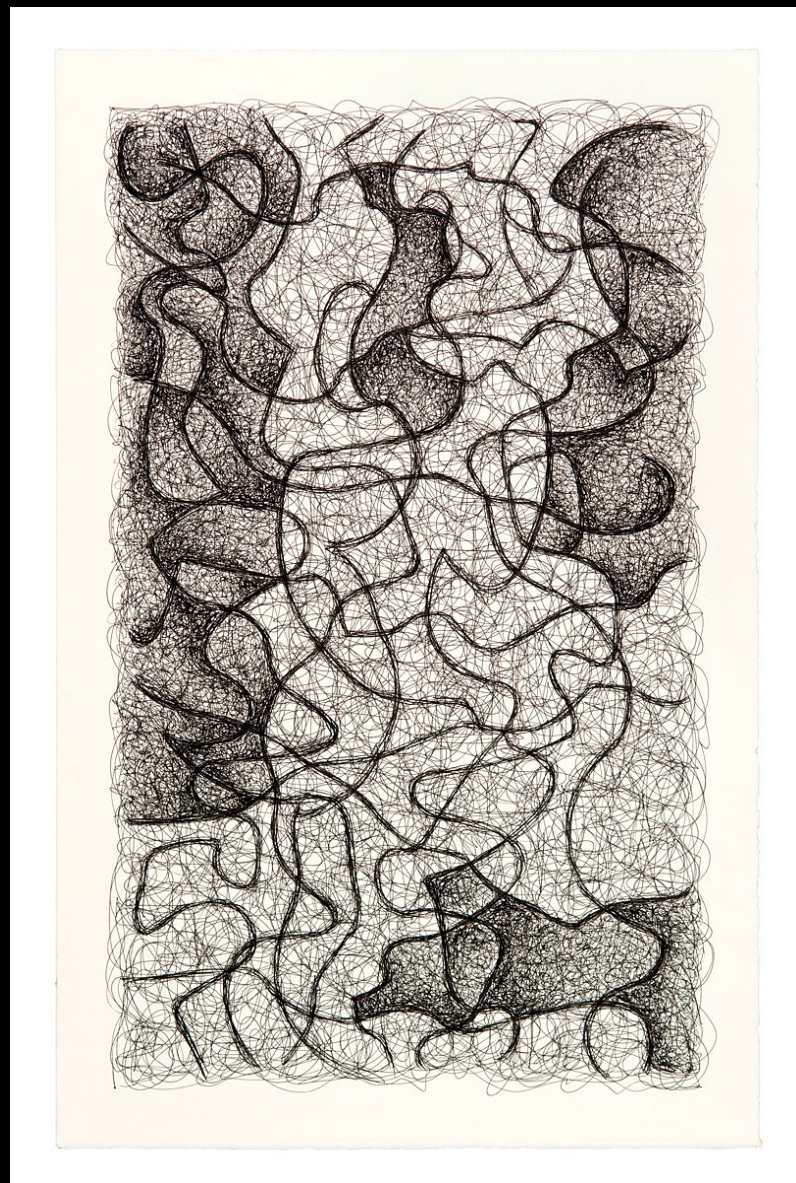
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Goodreads: www.goodreads.com/stephentvessels



Review Copies and Media Interviews

For a review copy of "The Mountain & The Vortex and Other Tales" or an interview with Stephen T. Vessels, please call +1 818-929-0306 or e-mail contact@stephentvessels.com or ian@museharbor.com.

When requesting a review copy, please provide a street address.



This press kit includes:

- Recent Press Releases
- 4 Artist Bios
- 5 Interesting Facts About the Artist
- Information about Vessels' Most Recent Exhibitions
- Artist Statement
- Artist History
- Contact Information for Stephen T. Vessels
- Images of Stephen T. Vessels
- Selected images of Vessels' ballpoint pen drawings
- Cover art image for Vessels' recently released collection "The Mountain & The Vortex and Other Tales"

Thank you so much for your interest in the work of Stephen T. Vessels. If you should need anything further, please don't hesitate to ask at contact@stephentvessels.com.

Author and Visual Artist Stephen T. Vessels Announces His First Solo Art Exhibition in More Than 20 Years

Vessels' solo show, "Recent Works," will run through August 27th at the Andre Zarre Gallery in New York City and will feature selected pieces from his vast collection of ballpoint pen drawings.

New York City, NY, August 1, 2016—Stephen T. Vessels, visual artist and author of the recently released collection "The Mountain & The Vortex and Other Tales," is pleased to announce his first solo art exhibition in more than 20 years. The exhibit, "Recent Works," will run from August 4, 2016 through August 27, 2016 at the Andre Zarre Gallery in New York City (www.andrezarre.com) and will feature selected works on paper drawn with ballpoint pen. The opening night reception will be held on August 4, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Vessels was involved in a series of Fluxus exhibits at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art in the early 90s. His abstract paintings were exhibited in a number of successful solo and group exhibitions in and around Santa Barbara, California during the same time period before a personal tragedy left him feeling disconnected from his work as an artist and he stopped painting.

"Then I went broke and lost my studio and a lot of my supplies and art," says Vessels. "My studio had become for years a place of avoidance, filled up with pain and disorder and things in the way. I kept the door closed, most of the time, until I was forced to clear out. Then I painted houses for awhile.

I moved into a place too small for a studio and focused on writing. Joined the community of writers. And one day started drawing again. I took a piece of paper that I respected, not a scrap I considered inconsequential or a page in a journal, but respected, and made marks on it and let that be the thing. I didn't worry about whether it was art or not, I just let it be the thing I had made and signed it.

Self-possession – the ability to drop a line in your personal ocean and pull up a fish. The simple truth of that. A person can go to that place directly at any turn, without license.

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Stephen T. Vessels

Artist | Author

One thing led to another and I started making scribble fields. And they became the ocean for me, where I dropped my lines and pulled up my fish. In there are all of the things that I love, all the art that has touched me, the pain, the echoes of war, the music I never played, Van Gogh, Monet, all the visual and sensual prayers, and I drop my line and commune."

For Vessels, art isn't an argument or a lesson. He tends to talk about it in personal, non-analytical terms.

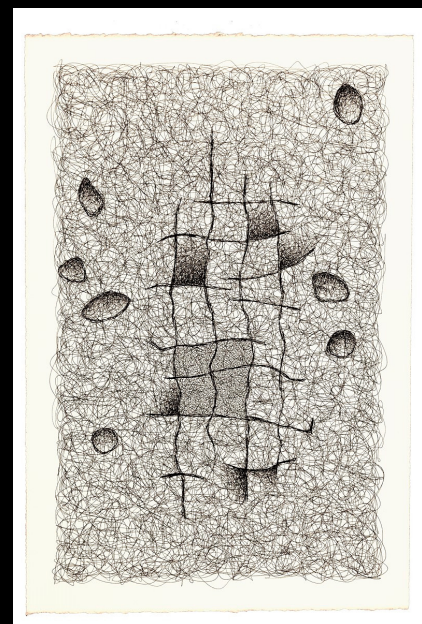
"I make art because I have made horrible mistakes, and failed at love, and wasted my life, and because somewhere a sad and contemplative man watches cherry blossoms float under a bridge, and because an old artist painted water lilies while war raged all about him, and because Charles Tournemire began a symphony, survived the Battle of Verdun and came home to finish that symphony.

These drawings were made without statement or definition out of the sheer love of ink and paper and life and humanity and this world and this universe and with hope for the future. Mine and everyone's, unto infinite generations."

To learn more, please visit stephentvessels.com.



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About the Artist:

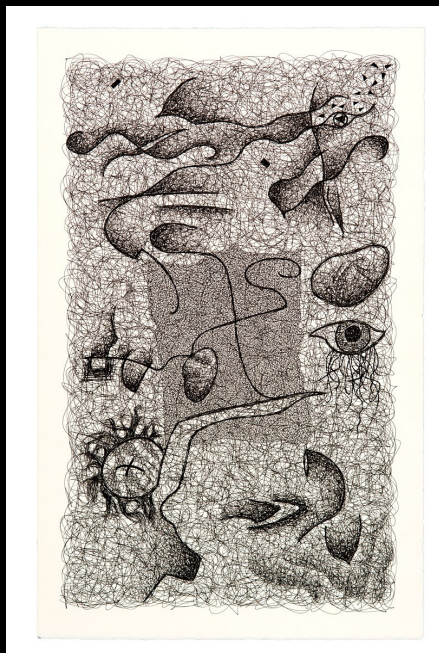


Photo by JoBeth McDaniels

Stephen T. Vessels' interest in art began with his father's love for the French impressionists, and became an insatiable passion that endured to the present. He has viewed thousands of works of art in museums and galleries across the U.S., Europe, Mexico and Canada. His own work exhibited in solo and group shows in California during the 1980's and 90's. The current work developed from living without room for a studio. He is also a writer, and the drawings were rendered with the same pen he writes with. His book of stories, "The Mountain & The Vortex and Other Tales" was released this year by Muse Harbor Publishing.

To learn more, please visit www.stephentvessels.com.

"Recent Works"



Out of a life immersed in art, literature and music, Stephen T. Vessels' ink drawings reach for the unattainable with an implement beyond its intended grasp. Both random and specific, the drawings evoke a voyage of consciousness across a sea of scribbles. They leave meaning and the written world behind to communicate a personal, amorphous language untethered from definitions. Rendered with the same pen he writes with, after a long period disconnected from his own art, this is Vessels' first exhibit in over twenty years.

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Artist Statement

I make art because I need to. Because the works of others who could not explain why they made art made me tremble.

I did not know what I was going to draw with my pen. I found these drawings. I opened my eyes and senses and made love to the paper.

I do these things because I am alive, and because I can, and because as near as I can tell I was made to do them.

I do not care if anyone agrees with me.

I make art because my father, who entered the European Theater through Omaha Beach, made us laugh from his death bed, moments before he died. I make art because my mother watched him ship out with my older sister, then an infant, in her arms. I make art because Sylvia Beach lived lean, and Ray Bradbury saved my life, and Mary Ann Evans wrote under a man's name.

I make art because a Starry Night set fire to my childhood soul, and because Alice got lost in a land of wonders, and because Pip wept over the body of his wretched benefactor. I make art because even a knife is beautiful.

I am not interested in convincing anyone of anything.

I make art because a boat sailed away at dawn and left no trace behind, because I have watched friends die, and because I care about humanity. I make art because I want us to go where we've never gone before.

I do not care if I am right.

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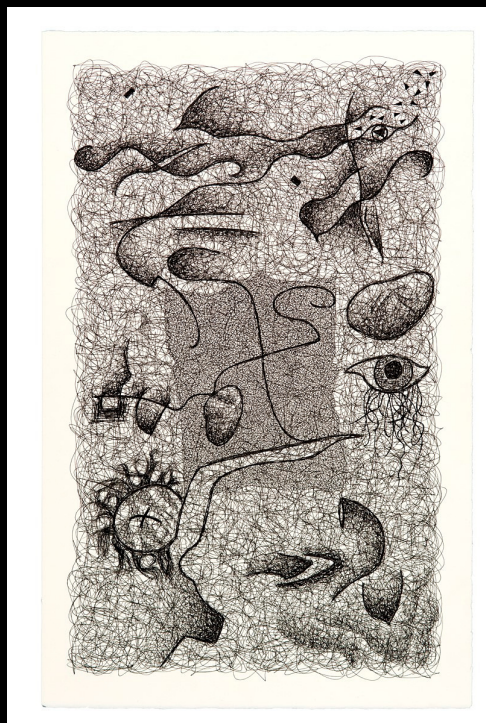
I make art because I have made horrible mistakes, and failed at love, and wasted my life, and because somewhere a sad and contemplative man watches cherry blossoms float under a bridge, and because an old artist painted water lilies while war raged all about him, and because Charles Tournemire began a symphony, survived the Battle of Verdun and came home to finish that symphony.

My art is not a lesson, it is not an argument, or a diatribe, or a joke. My art is not a polemic, or an example, or a truism, or a conclusion. My art is not a product or an investment. My art is a gift.

Even I cannot own it.

This is not an artist statement, it is a human statement. A beautiful beetle was smashed in the pavement, a dragonfly rode my hand. I made these drawings without statement or definition out of the sheer love of ink and paper and life and humanity and this world and this universe and with hope for the future.

Mine and everyone's, unto infinite generations.



Artist History

Solo Exhibitions

2016 Recent Works, Andre Zarre Gallery New York, New York

1994 Delphine Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

1988 Astra Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

1988 Graduating Senior Exhibit, College of Creative Studies Art Gallery, University of California Santa Barbara, CA

1987 Astra Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

Group Exhibitions

1992 Dueling Studios open houses, Santa Barbara, CA

1992 Astra Gallery Reunion, Cabrillo Arts Center, Santa Barbara, CA

1991 Astra Gallery Reunion, Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

1988 BroadSides, Santa Barbara Arts Festival, Lost Horizon Bookstore, Santa Barbara, CA

1987 Art Happening, Public exhibit, Santa Barbara, CA

1985 Juried student exhibit, University Center Gallery, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Collaborative Projects:

2008 (as poet) collaborated with organist Charles Talmadge on a performance of organ works and respondent poems entitled Recital & Recitation at the First Methodist Church in Santa Barbara, California.

2004 (as poet) collaborated with French painter François Bossiere in a salon in Brittany, France, on an exhibit of ink-brush paintings and a reading of respondent poems.

1994 Collaborated with Dick and Arlene Dunlap, Willem de Ridder, Yoko Ono and others in Fluxus art installations and performances and an international mail art exhibit at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and neighboring galleries and venues.

1986 Guerilla art installation in Girvetz Hall, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA. (Collaborated with painter / ceramicist Brian Katz in producing thirty-seven chalk murals on classroom chalkboards and installing forty-two words paintings over all building and classroom doorways in one night.)

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Gallery Affiliations:

1985-1990 Exhibited continuously at the Astra Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

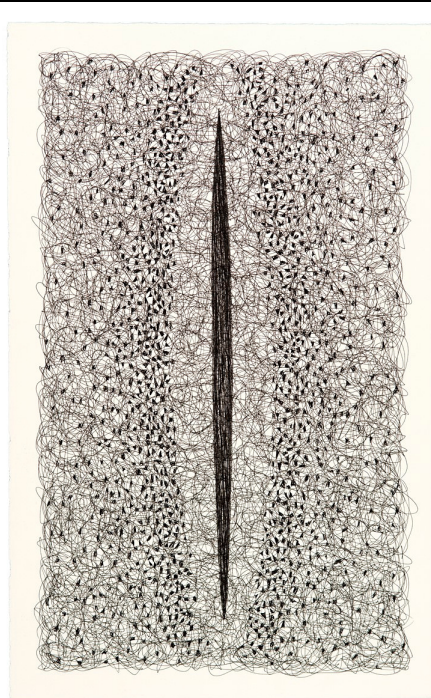
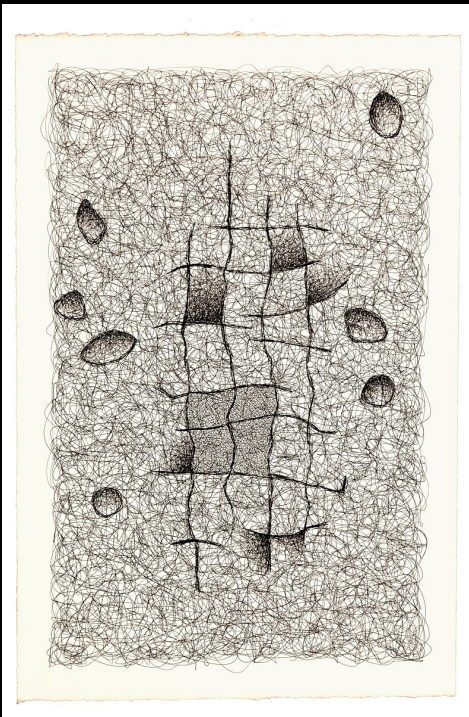
Related Experience:

1987 Arts Editor, Spectrum Magazine, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA

1987 Organized and facilitated installation of four student exhibits for Spectrum Magazine, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA

"Recent Works"

Out of a life immersed in art, literature and music, Stephen T. Vessels' ink drawings reach for the unattainable with an implement beyond its intended grasp. Both random and specific, the drawings evoke a voyage of consciousness across a sea of scribbles. They leave meaning and the written world behind to communicate a personal, amorphous language untethered from definitions. Rendered with the same pen he writes with, after a long period disconnected from his own art, this is Vessels' first exhibit in over twenty years.





Stephen T. Vessels

"Recent Works"

A Collection of Works on Paper Drawn with Ballpoint Pen

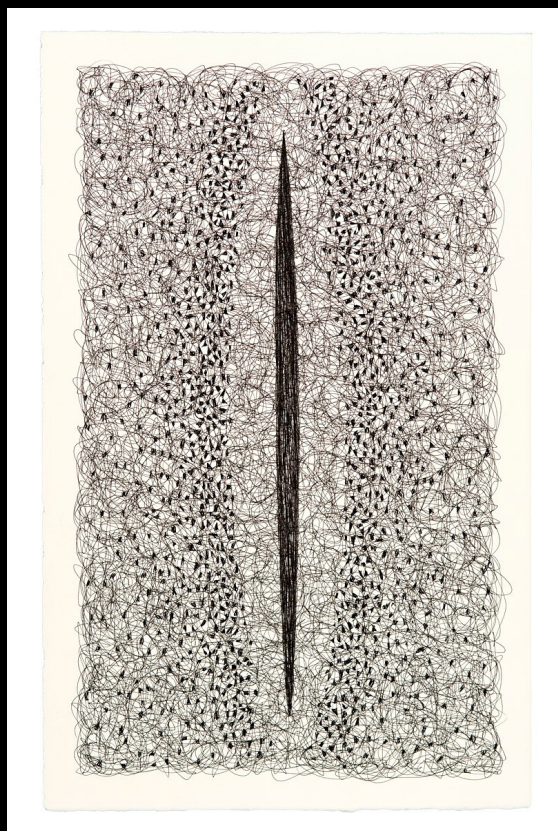
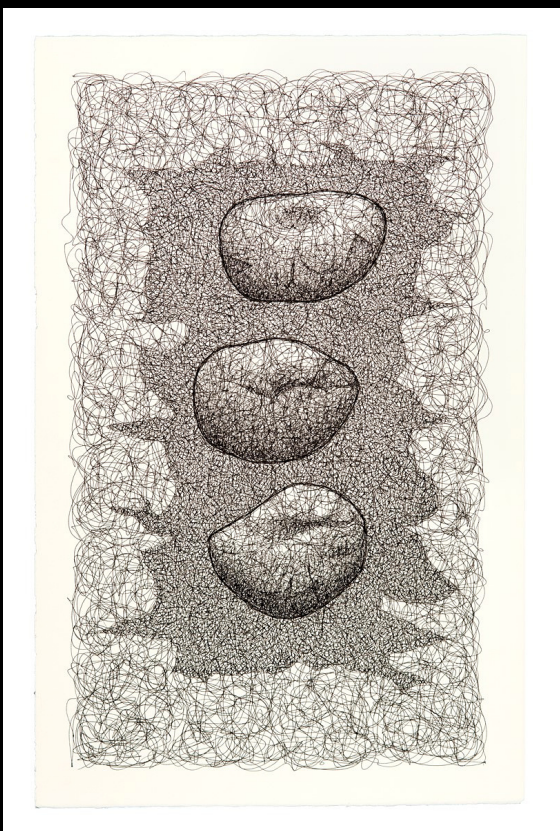
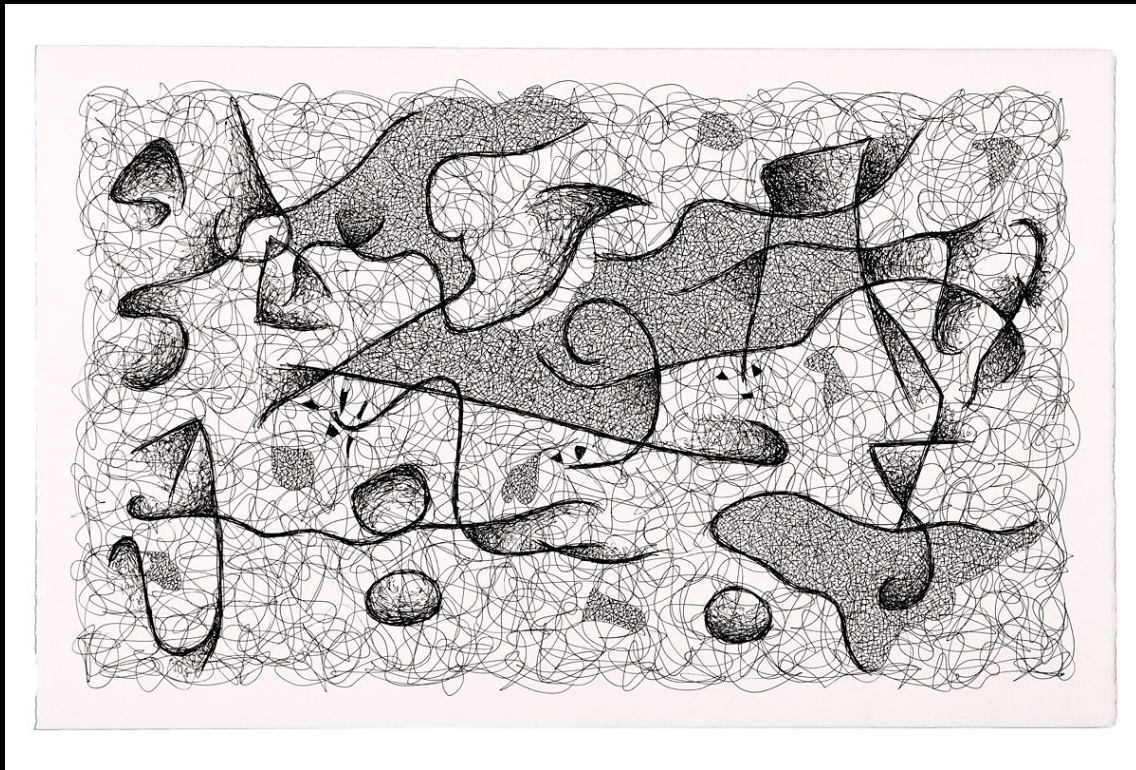
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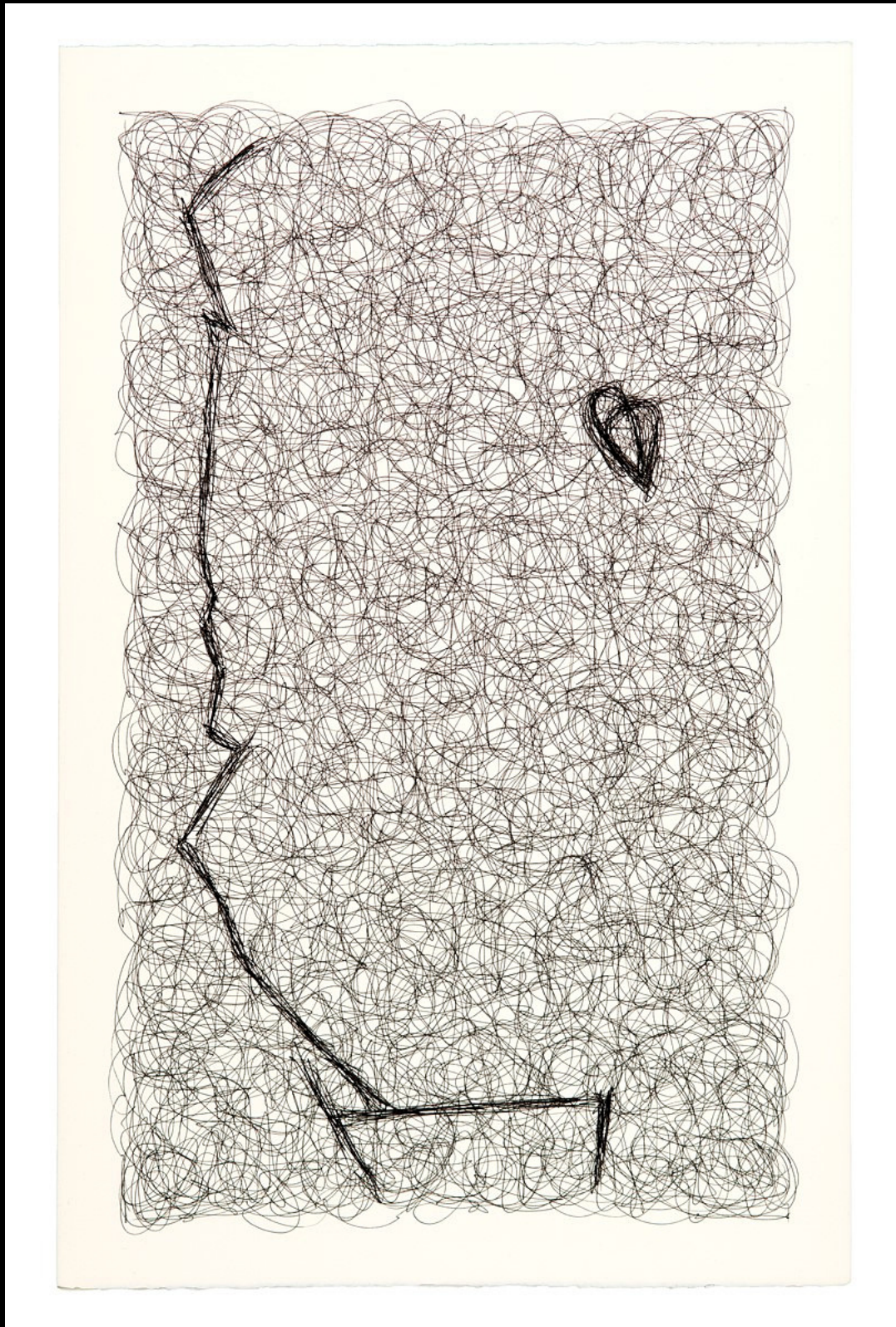
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All art photography by Wayne McCall

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