

Barbara McLean

CONTEMPORARY ARTIST

Markers and Tracings

Opens May 13, 2-4 pm

Artist's talk, 2:30 pm

Closes June 10

ARTsPLACE Gallery, Annapolis Royal

Visit barbaramclean-artist.com
to see full collection





Secrets within Secrets, Acrylic and charcoal on canvas, 34.25" x 34.25"



Remembering, diptych, mixed media on canvas, 16" x 24"



Dolmen, mixed media on canvas, 24" x 24"



Dissolving Time, diptych, acrylic and charcoal on canvas, 48" x 72"



Markers and Tracings, mixed media on canvas, 43.75" x 28.75"



Dark Dolmen, diptych, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 32"



Blue Tracings 3, acrylic on canvas, 16" x 14"

ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

The works in *Markers and Tracings* begin my exploration of a human need—deeply felt by individuals and societies—to ‘make a mark’ in time and space. Expressions of this need to leave behind some trace of existence include the mysterious prehistoric cave paintings in Lascaux and Chauvet and the looming silence of standing stone dolmens in Korea: the two primary sources for the paintings/drawings in this exhibition.

My use and application of materials like charcoal and raw powdered ochres intensify my connection with the ‘marks’ and ‘markers’ of the past—and with those who created them. Like the painted walls in the caves, the paintings in *Markers and Tracings* are multilayered, one image superimposed over another, simultaneously obscuring and revealing each other. As I worked, leaving finger prints or scratched lines visible through previously worked drawing, time seemed to collapse. I found myself inhabiting a very different personal space: one that felt overwhelming and totally consuming. Even transcendent.

It would be arrogant to assume that I understand the motivations of the ancients in any real sense. The meanings of their work are still matters of speculation to archaeologists, anthropologists and historians. Yet I know that the works done so long ago and the tracings that I engage in today are both signs and calls to an unknown—and hoped for—‘other’ to locate and witness the presence of individual beings. The marks I make in *Markers and Tracings* belong to this cry into the eternal and vast unknown: “I am here, in this place at this time”.

