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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

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JENMARIE ZELEZNAK

JenMarie Zeleznak's work is introspective, concerned with emotional and spiritual experience. The animals she depicts are a medium for the expression of the self, yet they retain their own autonomy, embodying gestures that convey emotional form and are signposts of a kind, indicating shared aspects of being. The pictorial space here isn't the natural world, but an in-between place - the innermost space between thinking and being. There is serenity in surrendering to an external force, suspended somewhere between despair and reconciliation.

JenMarie needs to establish physical and emotional intimacy with her process and subjects. Anxious mark making fills in my animal forms, as layers of gradients and nuances of color blend together. She meditates in these moments, working with watercolor pencils in a manner both sensitive and crude, manipulating the material onto paper. This personal and direct connection, much like caressing or grooming an animal, gives JenMarie the intimacy she needs in the work as she brings the animal into being, inducing an empathetic response.