

Artist Statement

Lines and Dots

The brush in the medium of sumi only paints lines and dots. These strokes evoke the rain, sky, horizons of my paintings. In many ways, I feel the continuation of the cave drawings of bison, reindeer and other animals from 35,000 years ago. We still create images which are significant to us in some way.

I also painted wooden dolls, who represent ordinary people experiencing the past 12 months. They are a front-line worker, a little boy with a Trump balloon, a voter, a Black Lives Matter demonstrator and someone looking at his cellphone on January 6, 2021. These traditional dolls are called kokeshi in Japanese. I find them in second-hand stores, sand away the original patterns, then paint them into new forms. The same paints are used for sumi and kokeshi dolls.