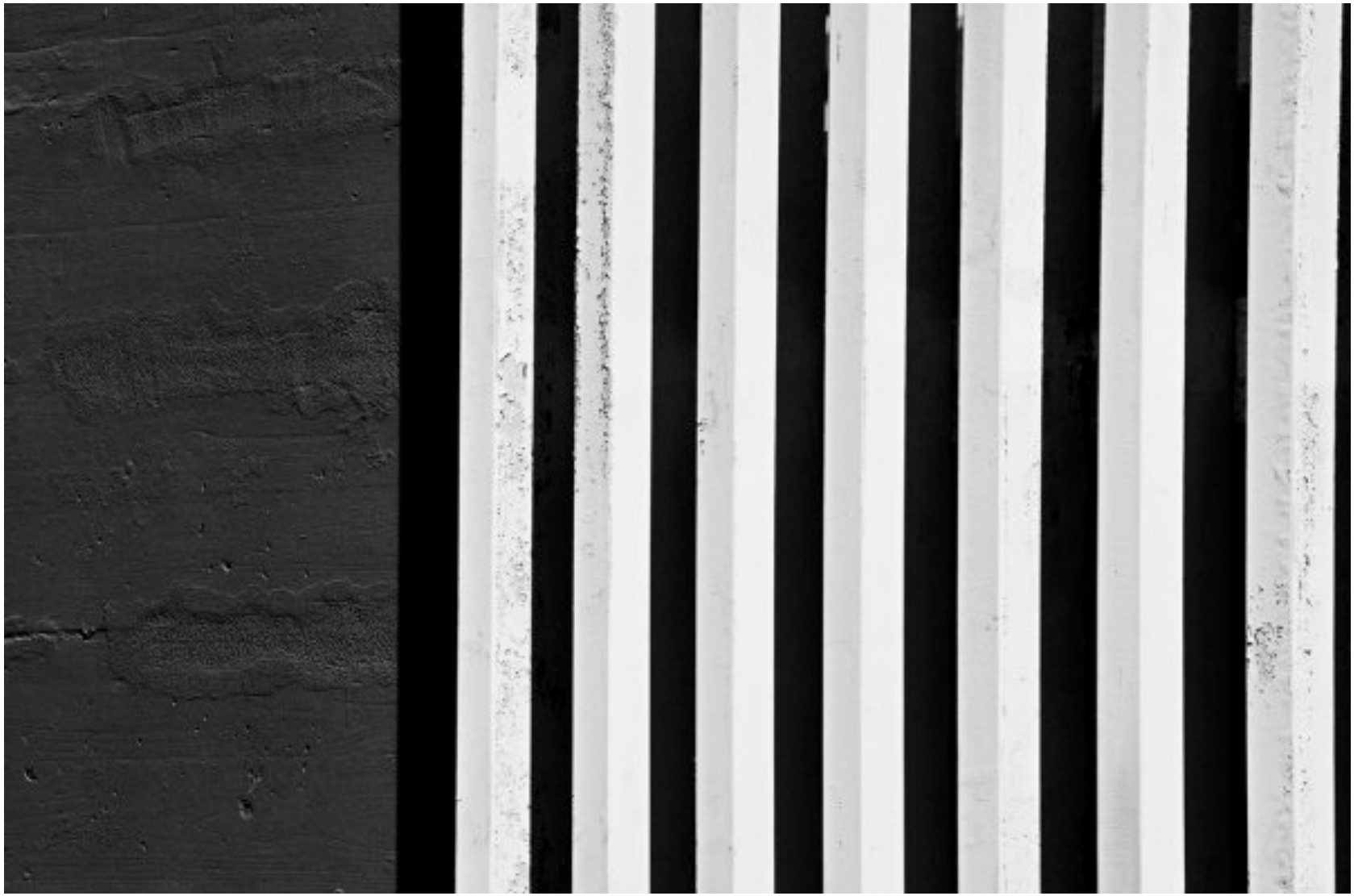
Line: Directional Dominance

Line Direction

There are 3 major directions of line.

Line Direction: Horizontal

Line Direction: Vertical



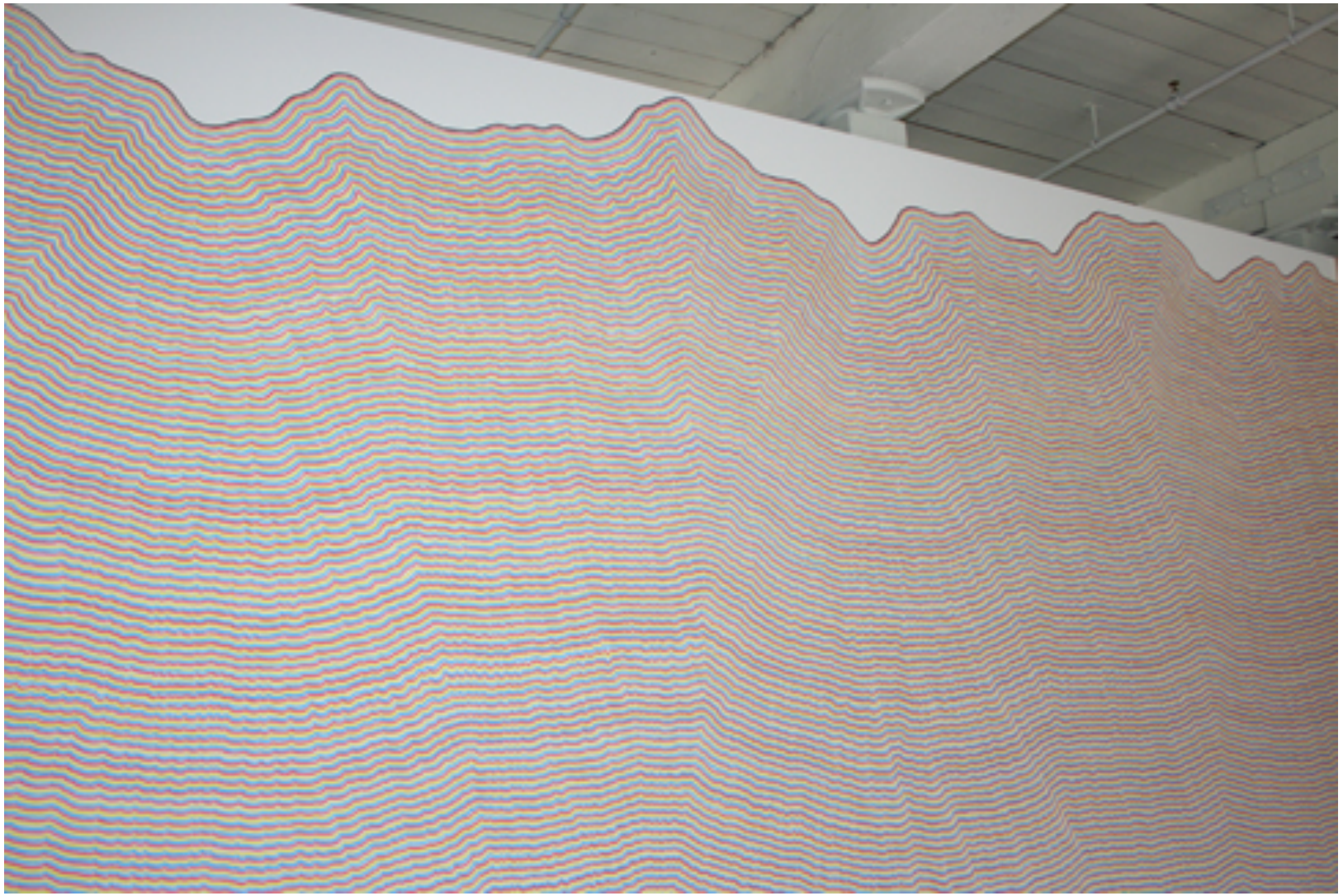
Line Direction: Diagonal

Line Direction

A strong sense of direction within a design can set the tone or overall mood for the piece (i.e. strength, calm, motion)

Directional Dominance

When used repetitively, lines create a directional force. When these lines create an obvious sense of motion across the picture plane, this is called Directional Dominance.



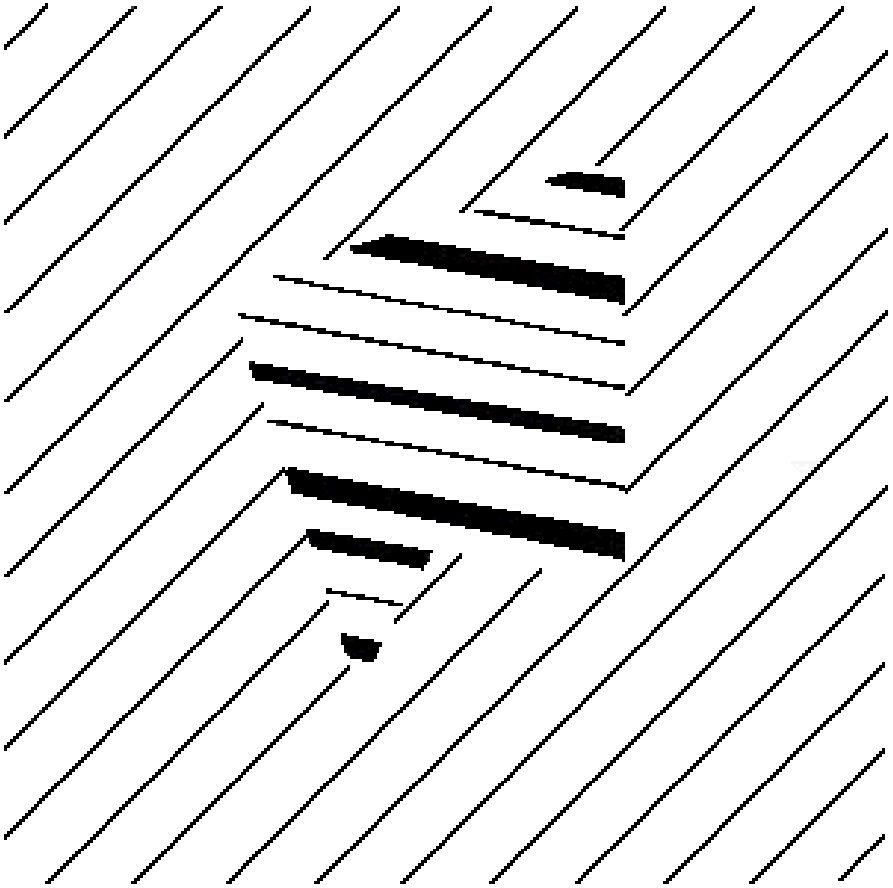
Directional Dominance: can be used to create emphasis

Photo taken by Brandi Redd

Directional Conflict- a change or break in line direction

"Selfportrait" captured by M. Lorenzo

Directional Conflict



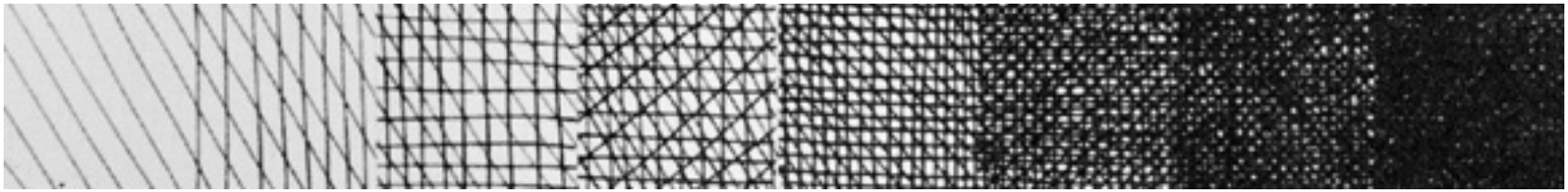
- Create a Focal Point
- Avoid outlining the point of intersection – creates tension

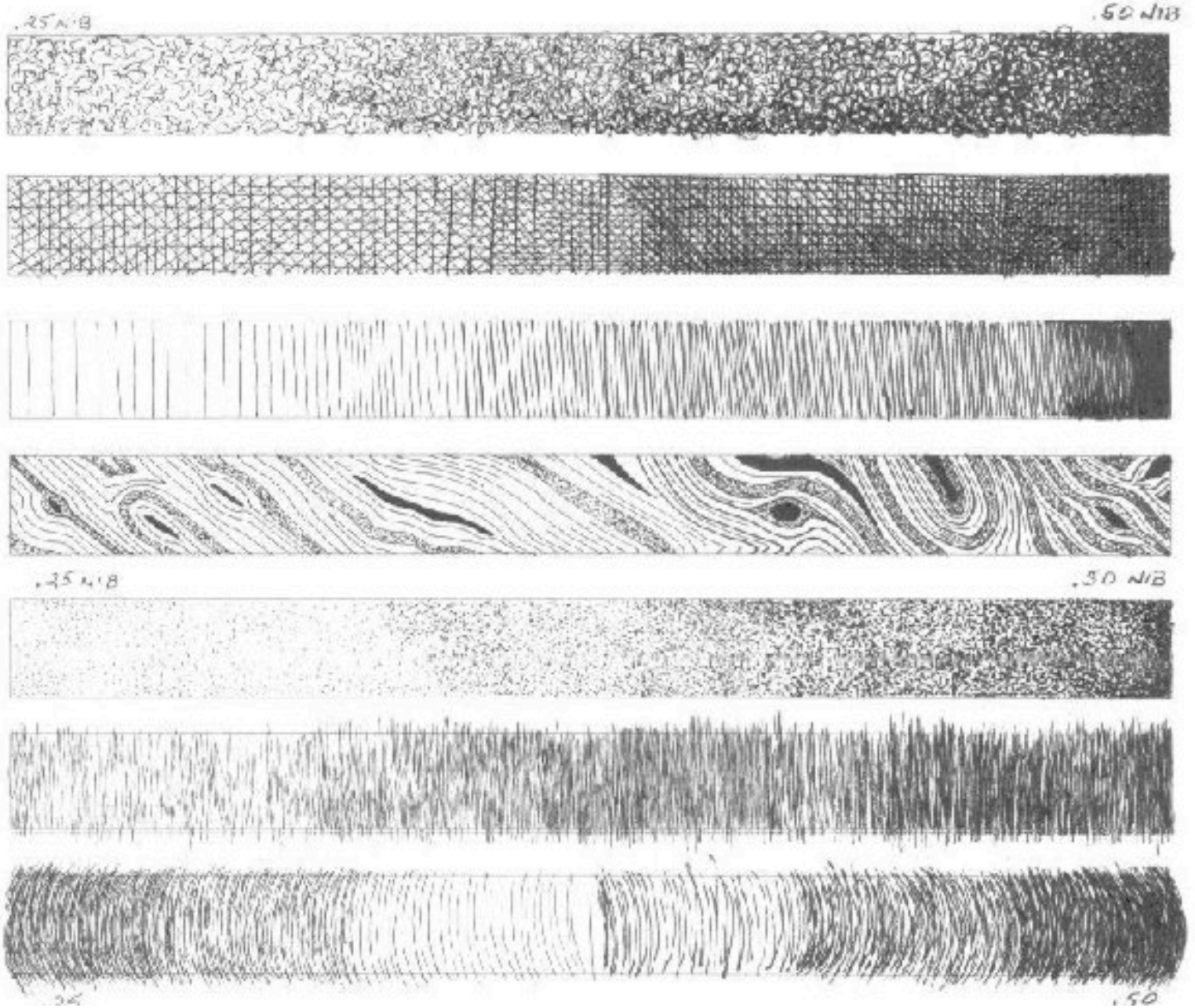
Il Lee

Line as Value

***Cross-hatching* -** Overlapping lines used for shading.

Tip: To create dark values, draw a series of lines in close proximity to one another, the closer the lines are the darker it appears.

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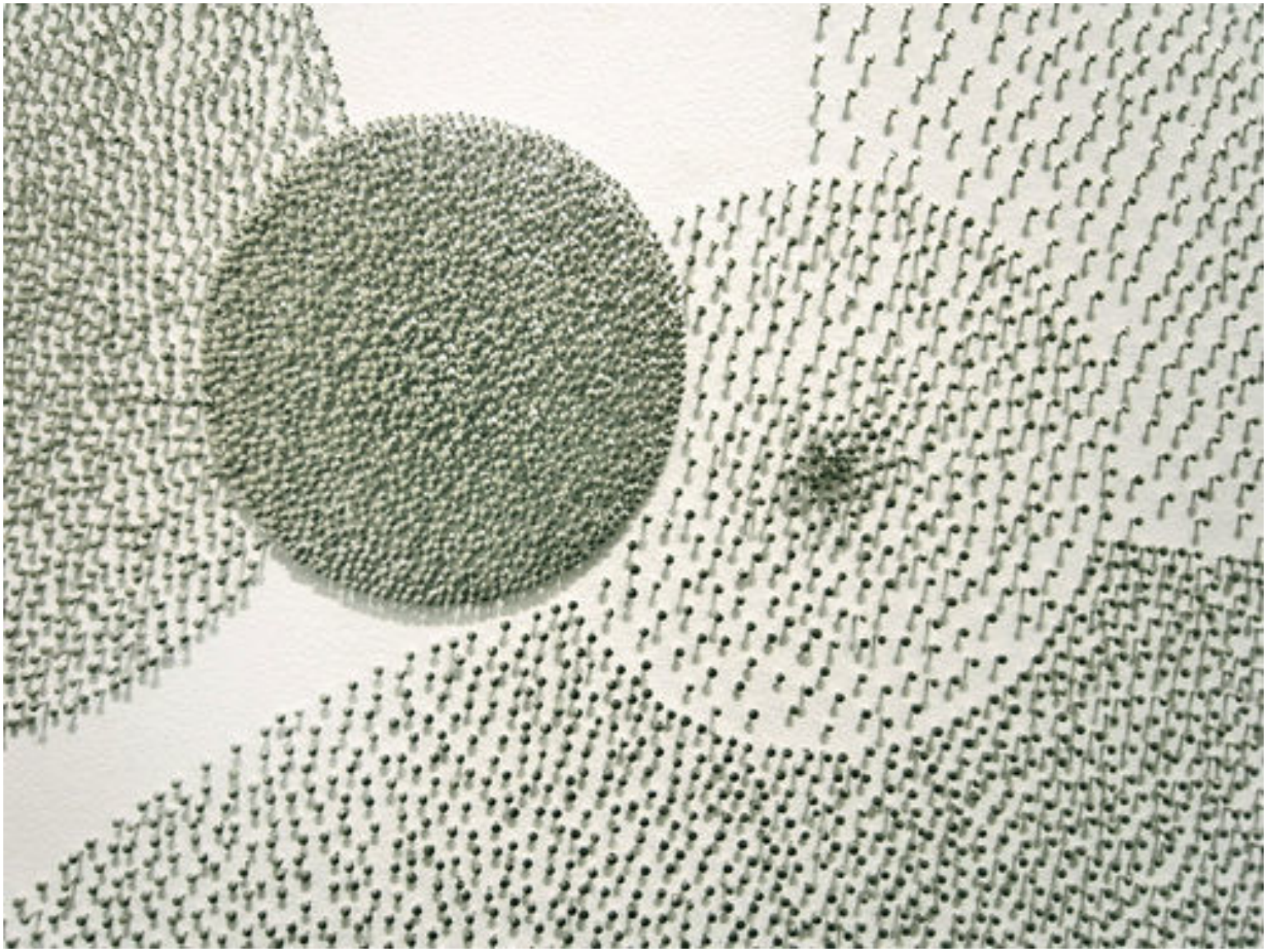
Compressed & Expanded Space



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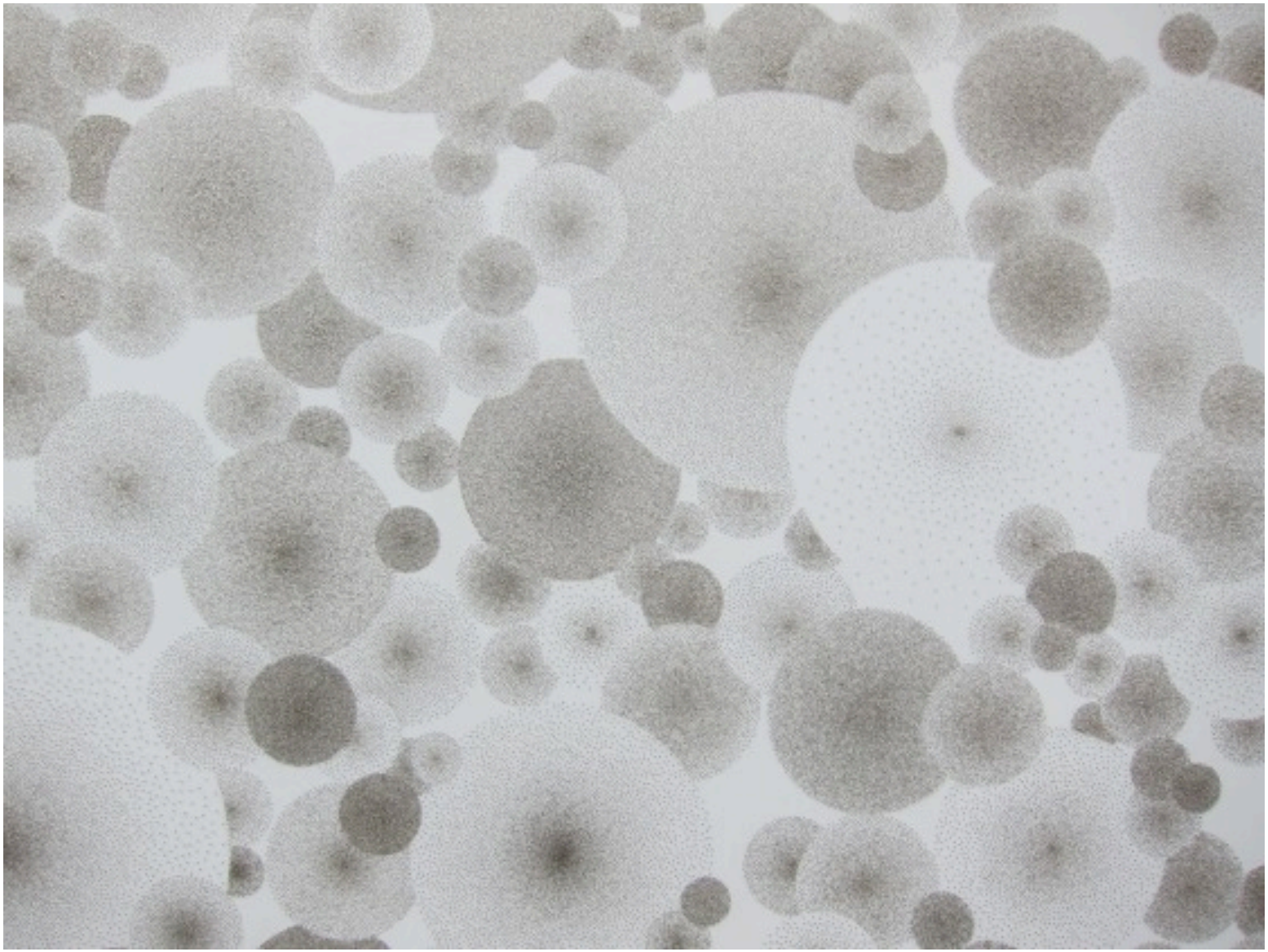
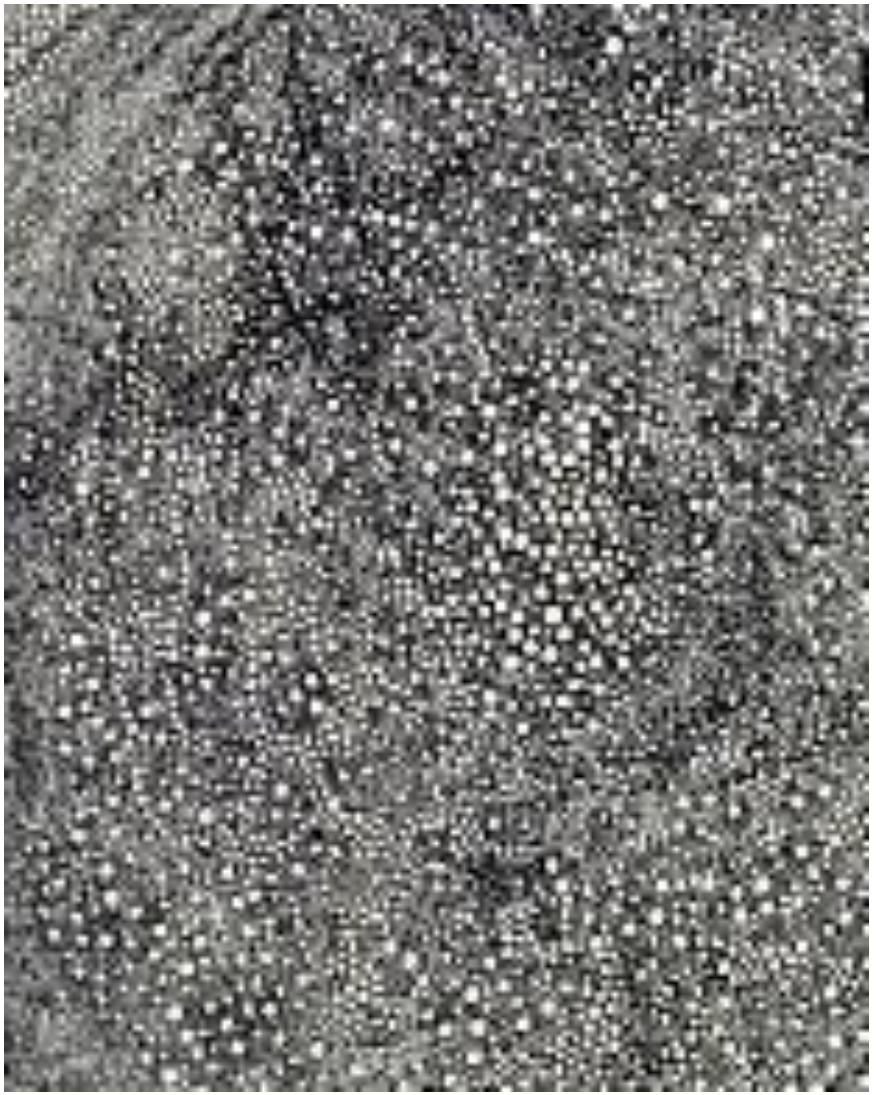
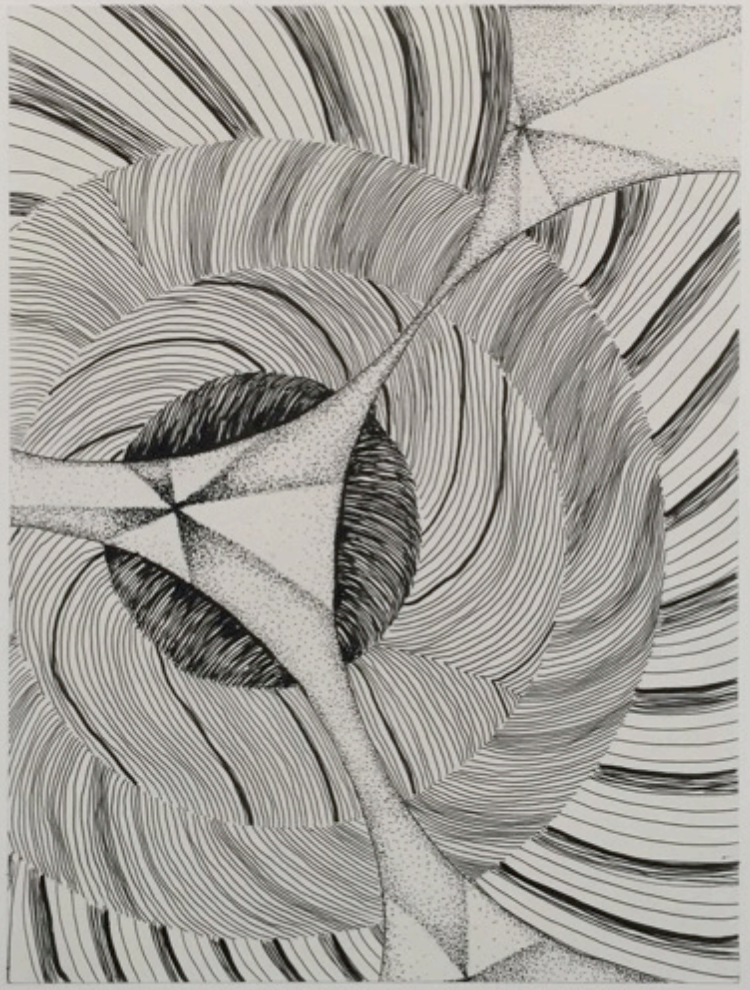
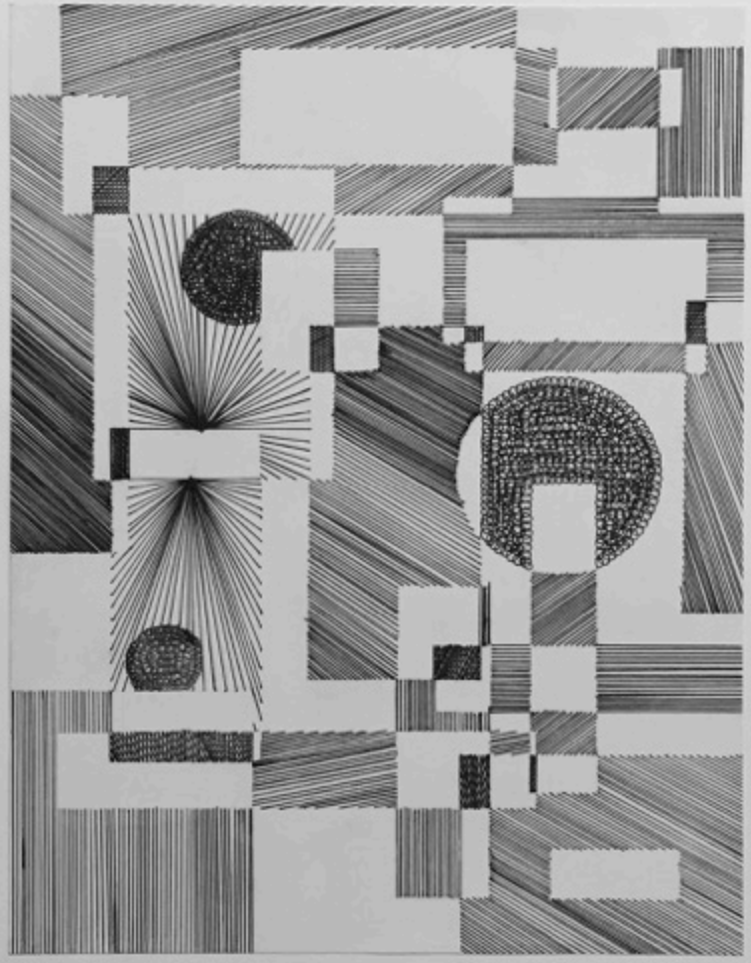
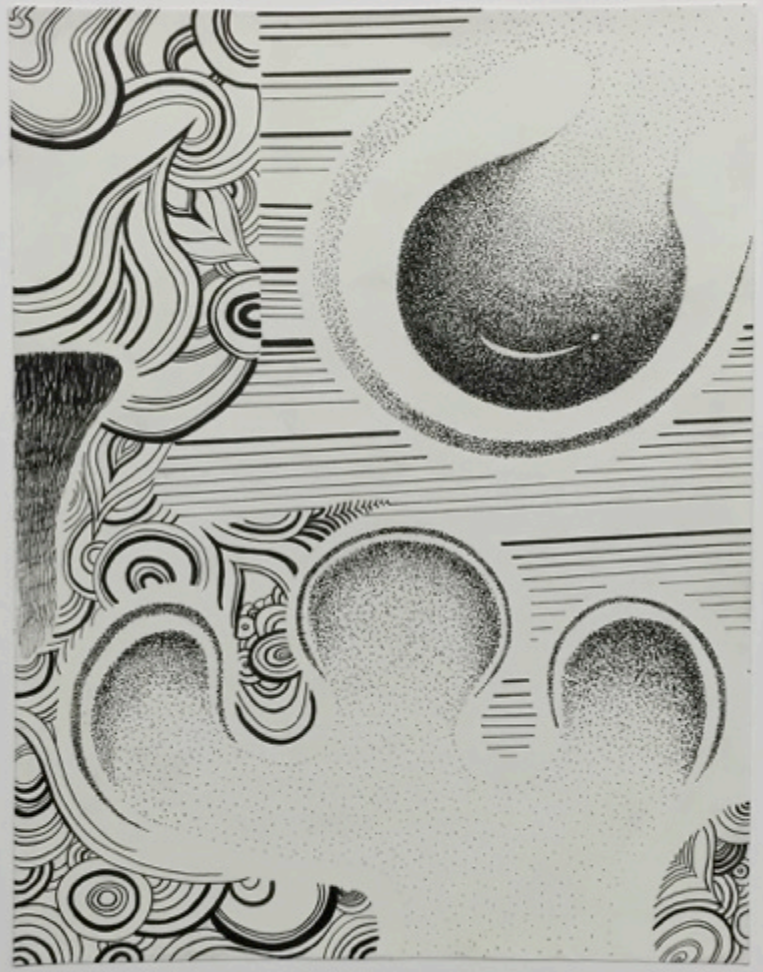
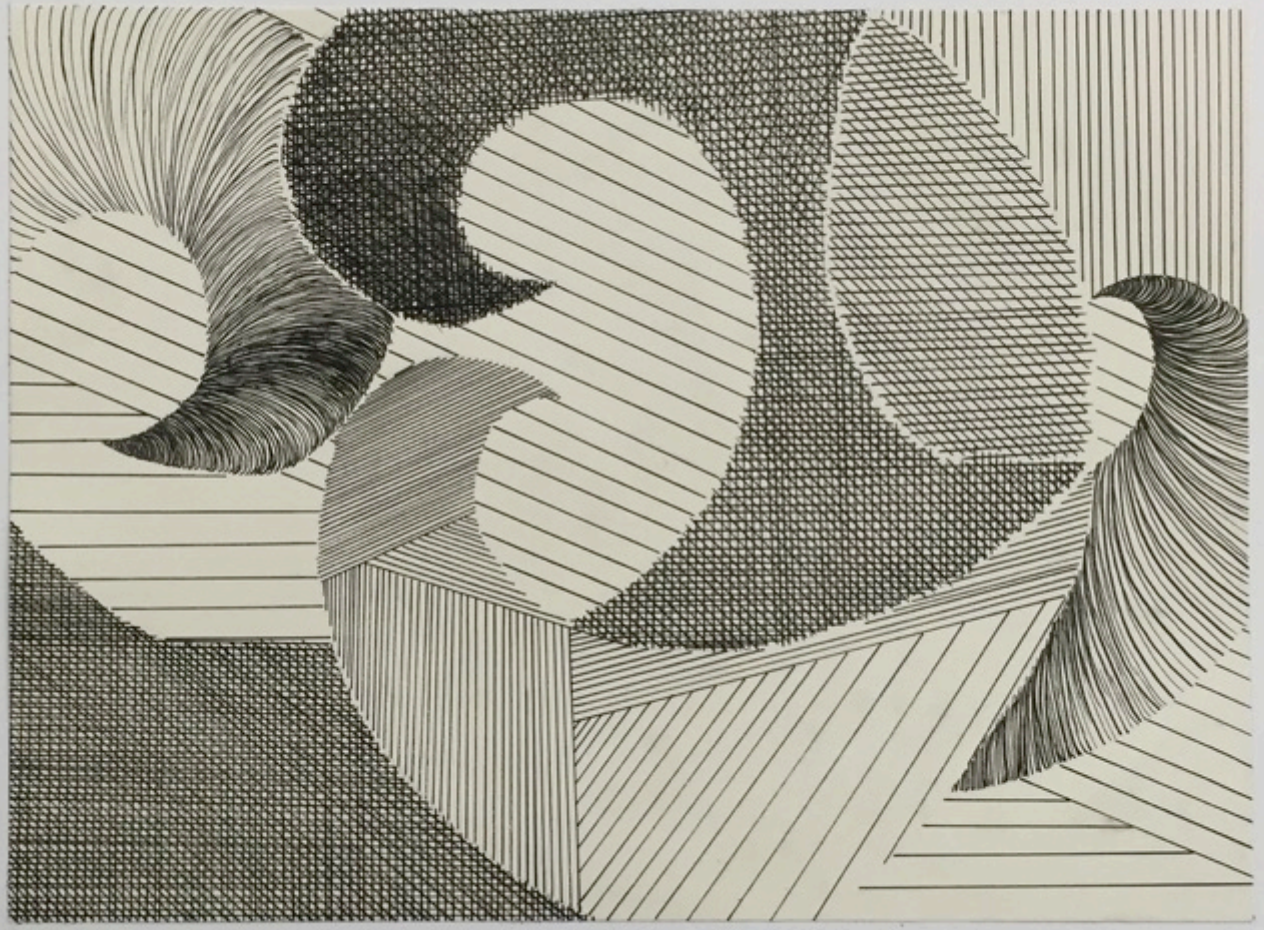
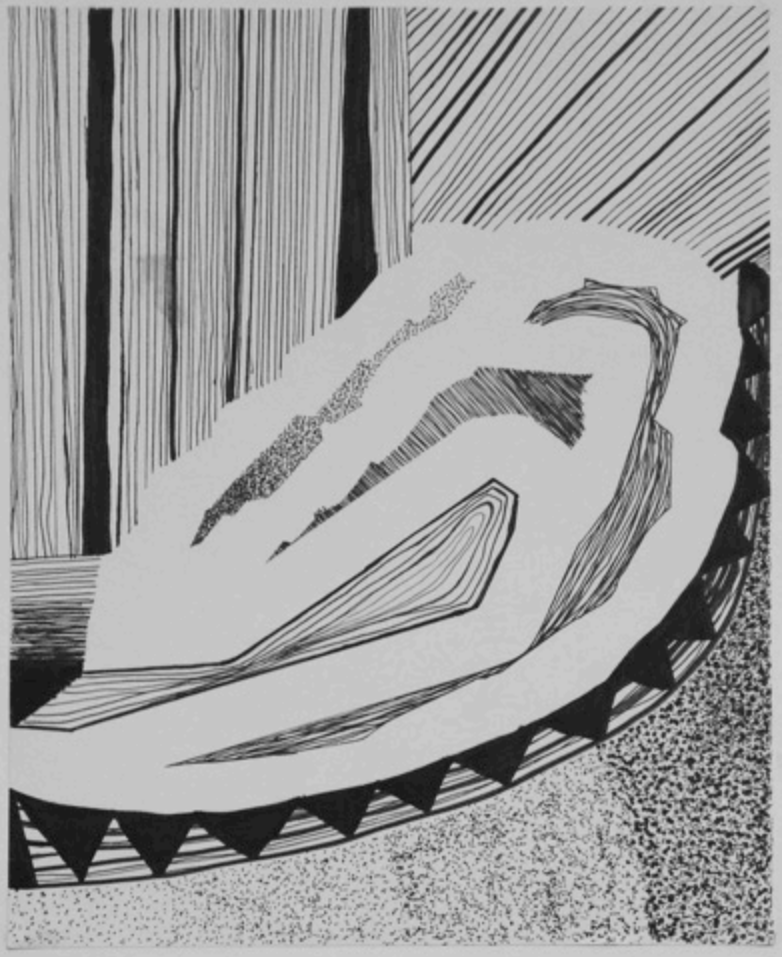
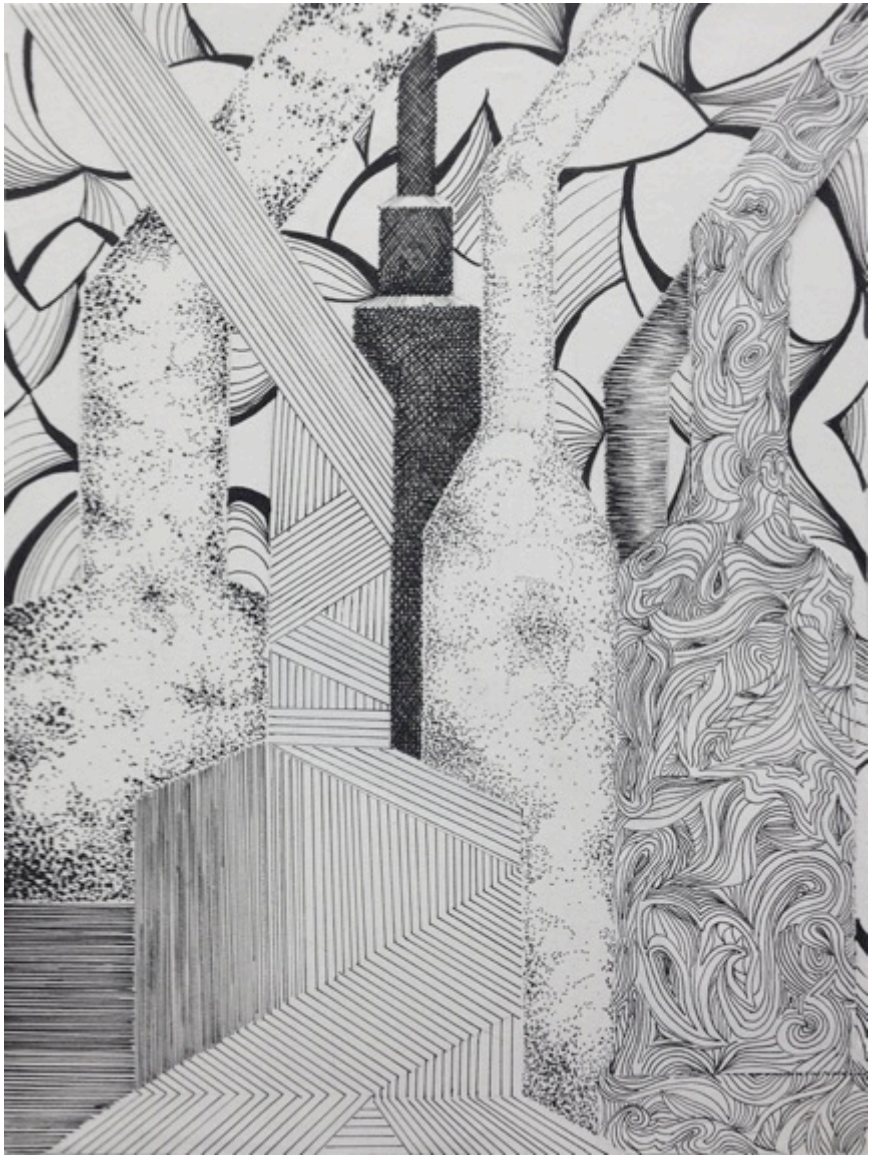
Compressed & Expanded Space



Tara Donovan

Compressed & Expanded Space

Hiroyuki Doi



Student Examples