

# *W4 - Inkblots*

Exploratory Figures











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Final Figures











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## *Assignment W4 - Inkblots*

Assignment #4 gave me the opportunity to be freer and more experimental in my artistic practice than I often allow myself to be. My original guiding adjective was “peppy,” which Oxford Languages defines as “lively and high-spirited.” Pink is my favorite color, and the shade of hot pink I chose to enliven my black inkblots captures this energetic adjective. Although I moved away from the specificity of the word “peppy” by my final figurations, the term did inform the quick ink splatters, loose, energetic line work and bright color of my pieces.

In my first and second exploratory figurations, I played with scale. For Exploration #1, I imagined the ink and watercolor as some sort of power that the figure wields or fends off. For Exploration #2, I focused on the negative space and tried to fit my figure’s face and hand between the ink blots. In my third exploration, I used frisket for the first time ever. I felt impressed by how neatly the latex peeled off the page and the crisp lines it left behind. I mostly swirled the frisket around the paper, but I also left one big blob in the middle. Upon removing the frisket, I noticed that the shape it created resembled a torso. I built my figure around this mass and attempted to recreate the loose linework and circular motion that I had developed in my favorite gesture drawings in class. In my fourth exploration, I splattered ink blots across the paper. Then, I outlined a figure in frisket and brushed a watercolor wash over it. When I removed the frisket, I realized that my improvised figure had some glaring anatomical inaccuracies, so I drew a more careful (though certainly not perfect) figure on top in ink. In my fifth figure, I combined the “blob torso” and loose frisket linework of my third exploration with the ink splatters and outlining of my fourth exploration. I noticed that the bright color, swirling lines, and quick dots created an energetic mood, which had in turn pushed me towards dancers as figures for my fourth and fifth explorations. Moreover, the spread of one particular inkblot in my

fifth figure resembled a large, flowing skirt. (The cropping with the matte did not include this part of the image in the final composition, but I have included a picture of it below). As a costume designer, I loved that this abstract shape that looked like a garment. I thus decided to focus on dancing figures and flowing skirts for my final figurations.

In my final five figurations, I employed a similar process to Exploratory Figure #5 and first splattered ink blots on the page, then drew an approximate torso shape and a number of freehand lines with frisket, and next added pink watercolor concentrate and black ink over the top. Finally, I rubbed away the frisket and drew a figure from the shapes I had left. This project felt a bit nerve-wracking for me, as I relied more on freehand, imagined figure drawing than previous assignments. Although I used some reference material, I departed from my source images more frequently than I usually trust myself to do. Sometimes, if I could not find an online image that fit the figure I found in the abstract ink and watercolor lines, I made part of it up. This project taught me that I can draw figures from my mind better than I expected, but I also still have a lot to learn. I thoroughly enjoyed the exploratory nature of this project and the opportunities to play with medium.

Moreover, I felt that my five initial sketches built upon each other to inspire my final project, leading to a fulfilling experience of progressive artistic process.



Exploratory Figure #5, Full Image