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**Lydia Bassis writes love letters of abstraction "To The Ocean" in her show of new work, opening at ZINC contemporary June 1, 2017**



Lydia Bassis  
*Ripple*  
30 x 22 inches  
acrylic on paper

**Seattle, WA / March 2017:** Lydia Bassis' solo show, *To the Ocean*, debuts a new series of mixed media paintings that explore the resonance of water within the human psyche. Through the use of symbolism, her paintings and mixed media pieces reflect on the meditative waves of the ocean and capture moments of clarity one finds on the shore. **The exhibitions opens on Thursday June 1, 2017 with an opening reception 5-8pm, and closes on Saturday, July 1, 2017.**

Imbued with a sense of timelessness, Bassis' shapes, forms and translucent layers ebb and flow across the works on paper and panel. Bassis invents a personal language of symbols that vary between intuitive and structured. Often mimicking the repetitive nature of waves and the movement of water, she creates space where one's thoughts can wander. The works are meant to foster meditation and relaxation, inviting the viewer for a moment of introspection. Pulling from the idea that humans have assigned healing and transformative

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properties to water for millennia, Bassis studies how proximity to bodies of water triggers a reflective state of calm, peacefulness, unity, and a sense of satisfaction with life in the moment. Her work seeks to recreate those feelings to the viewer through her interpretation.

Speaking about the works of *To the Ocean*, Bassis comments "I want the paintings to be like letters I'm sending to the ocean, telling it how I feel when I'm near it ... I don't want the work to be literal paintings of water or things happening in the water, but I do want them to feel like there is a "wateriness" to them."

From ZINC curator and founder, Laura Zeck: "The graphic nature of Lydia's symbols are often what draw me in, but then time and time again I linger in the passages of overlap. Lydia applies gentle washes and an elegant restraint with line to create a poetic combination - a language that one can sense rather than articulate"

Lydia Bassis received her BFA in Printmaking from the University of Washington and her MFA from the Mason Gross School of Art at Rutgers University. She has exhibited and taught nationally, and has received grants from the Vermont Studio Center, 4Culture, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Her works can be found in the collections of the New York Public Library, Women's Studio Workshop, and the University of Washington Print and Book Arts Collection.

**More about ZINC contemporary:**

**ZINCcontemporary.com**

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Owner/Founder – Laura Zeck

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 11 – 5pm and by appointment

ZINC contemporary is the sister gallery of ZINC Art + Object, a shop and gallery offering a curated selection of art, furniture and gifts, located in Edmonds, WA. ZINC contemporary opened its Pioneer Square location in August 2016.

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