



## Dan Jian: Nascent Terrain



Cris Worley Fine Arts

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Time and material collide and seem to hover on the surface of Dan Jian's new work. In her monochromatic compositions that layer cutouts over drawings on tracing paper, there exists a sense of story, of incomplete narratives drifting on the edge of disclosure. Figurative elements float into relationship with one another in the misty, moody terrain, like mirages.

Drawing on the tradition of Chinese ink landscapes and more contemporary practices of collage, Jian inserts her delicate, nimble interpretations. In the studio, the artist applies charcoal, ash, and dust on the horizontal surfaces and then lifts them, allowing the medium to form gravitational washes, reminiscent of watercolor. Temporality (the passing of past and present) is one of Jian's interests, as is the medium's ability to convey depth and perspective and evoke visibility and invisibility, and vice versa. Jian's formal explorations rely on the paper as terrain of possibility and the vestiges of something that has been burned, its trace—like memory. Here, the viewer sets foot in an intuitive, interior world, where narrative emerges from form.