

Sean Spence

### Artist's Statement

Drawing and painting – the world of the imagined visual space – have been part of my life since sitting for my mother to do my portrait at the age of 3. My memories, dreams and metaphors are visual. So drawing for me is about allowing metaphors to emerge, rather than reproducing what my eye sees. This means suspending 'intent' – keeping the brain away from the action – and allowing the pencil, pen, charcoal or brush to make a mark, which is then responded to until the image feels complete. Each work decides its own beginning and end. Over the last six years, this process has evolved from a nothing to a personal line, a language of shapes and an internal mythology made visible. The influences are the echoes of my life in Ireland, Hong Kong and Australia.

The drawings in this exhibition have all been made intuitively. With each one, regardless of size or medium, the starting point was a circle, line or arbitrary shape in the middle of the page. The geometric, animal and human forms that revolve around this centre are the result of instantaneous response to the previous line, shape or colour. This feels like 'deep play', where a part of my mind that is not analytical or logical is allowed to voice itself in its own way. This is fascinating to me because my academic and business training have focussed on knowledge and closed processes. I have had to suspend judgement, analysis and expectation and instead rely on wonder, intuition and exploration.

This exhibition collects some of these drawings in pencil, charcoal, ink and watercolour for viewers to play with – each drawing contains a different story for each person who sees it. It shows what can happen when the hand and soul are left free to explore line, shape and colour.