

# Willa Vennema

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## Statement

The Circular Nature of Chaos and Order In our daily lives there is a constant shifting of things from order to chaos and vice versa. My recent series, The Circular Nature of Chaos and Order, illustrates this shift in an abstract form. My inspiration came from nature, as I thought about what it is like to walk through a forest or field: the trees and leaves look all jumbled, but when we get up close and investigate, everything has its own internal order, such as the veins on a leaf, the striation of bark on a tree, or seeds nestled and overlapped in a milkweed pod. The seeds in a milk weed pod are exquisitely arranged in their pod, but when the pod dries and opens, the seeds float off\_”shifting from order to chaos as they disperse randomly into the air. I have been exploring the primacy and rich symbolic nature of the circle shape for several years now, and use it in this series to show the shifting or “circular” nature of chaos and order. Each piece in this series contains four 8” x 8” panels created using circle shapes cut from book pages, and encaustic paint. Two panels in each piece contain circle shapes in a random configuration, while two contain circles in an ordered configuration. I worked on a dozen or more panels simultaneously, mixing and matching the groups of four until each contained a certain flow, which while abstract, reflects my observations and connection to the natural world.

## Bio

Willa Vennema grew up in Greenwich Village, NYC. She received her BA in Studio Art and Art History from Oberlin College, and her BFA from The Cooper Union. Vennema now resides with her family in Portland Maine, and spends her summers on Swans Island 8 miles off the coast of Mount Desert Island. Vennema has work in the collections of Maine Medical Center, Southern Maine Community College, Avesta Housing, and over 180 private collections nationwide. Vennema has been using wax mediums for over thirty years, and continues to be inspired by the versatility and beauty of this medium.



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