

# INTERALIA MAGAZINE

An online magazine dedicated to the interactions between the arts, sciences and consciousness.

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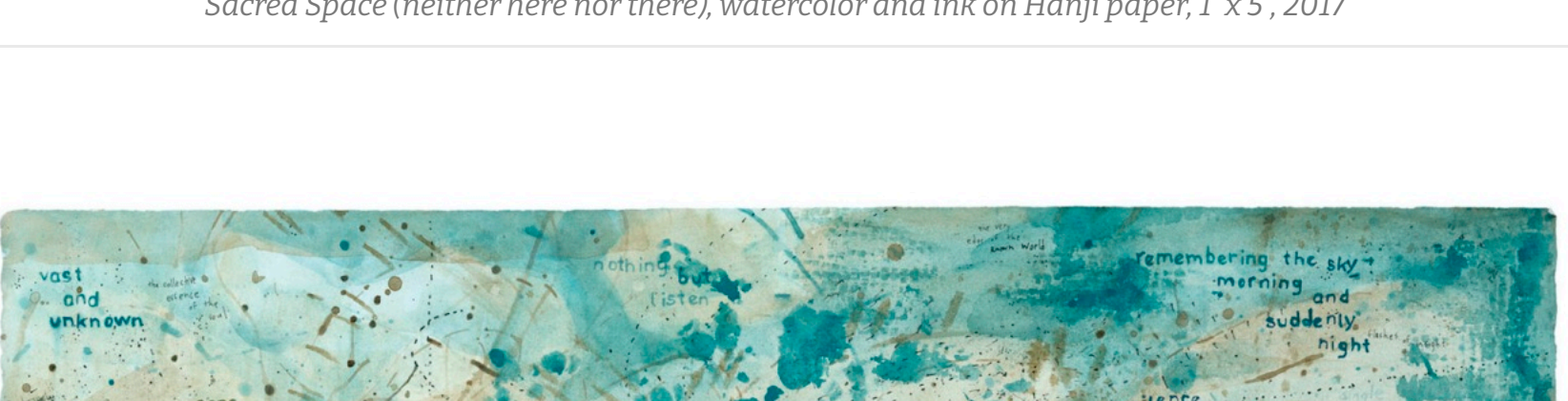
## Interconnections between memory, time and place

Karey Kessler creates map-paintings that contain ideas about physical, spiritual, internal, and temporal spaces. "My maps tell the story of an ever changing environment, impermanence, and the immensity of time. They tell stories about the interconnected ecosystems of the world that do end where one country's borders end and another's begins: how both air and water (and therefore pollution), defy borders. The stories include deep time (before humans were on earth) and the eternal things that will remain once we're gone."

I create paintings that explore the entangled ways in which memory, time, and place are interconnected. I infuse my paintings with the anxiety of climate change and awe about the depth of geologic time and the vastness of the universe.

The work starts with ink and watercolor to make an assortment of dots, lines, and pools of color. Then, like a cartographer, I label areas – not with real locations, but where the marks and colors evoke feelings, thoughts, and memories. I keep a running list of words that I draw upon – phrases from poetry, novels, and science.

We live in a world that is digitally mapped from outer space to our front doors and even underground. Yet we still have no idea what "place" really means. My paintings create a bridge between spiritual, internal places and physical locations. They play on the fact that the Hebrew word for 'the Place,' 'ha-Makom,' is also used as a name for God. In my paintings, "there" can be any known physical place, or it can be an infinite conceptual space—a spiritual realm—an underlying structure of our world.



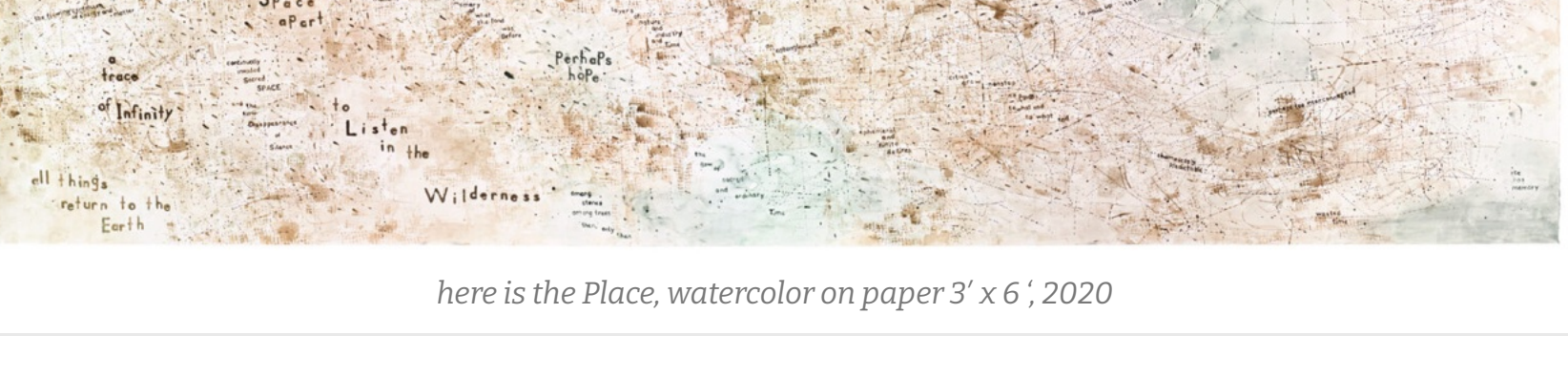
Sacred Space (neither here nor there), watercolor and ink on Hanji paper, 1' x 5', 2017



perhaps the mist, watercolor on paper, 12" x 24", 2019



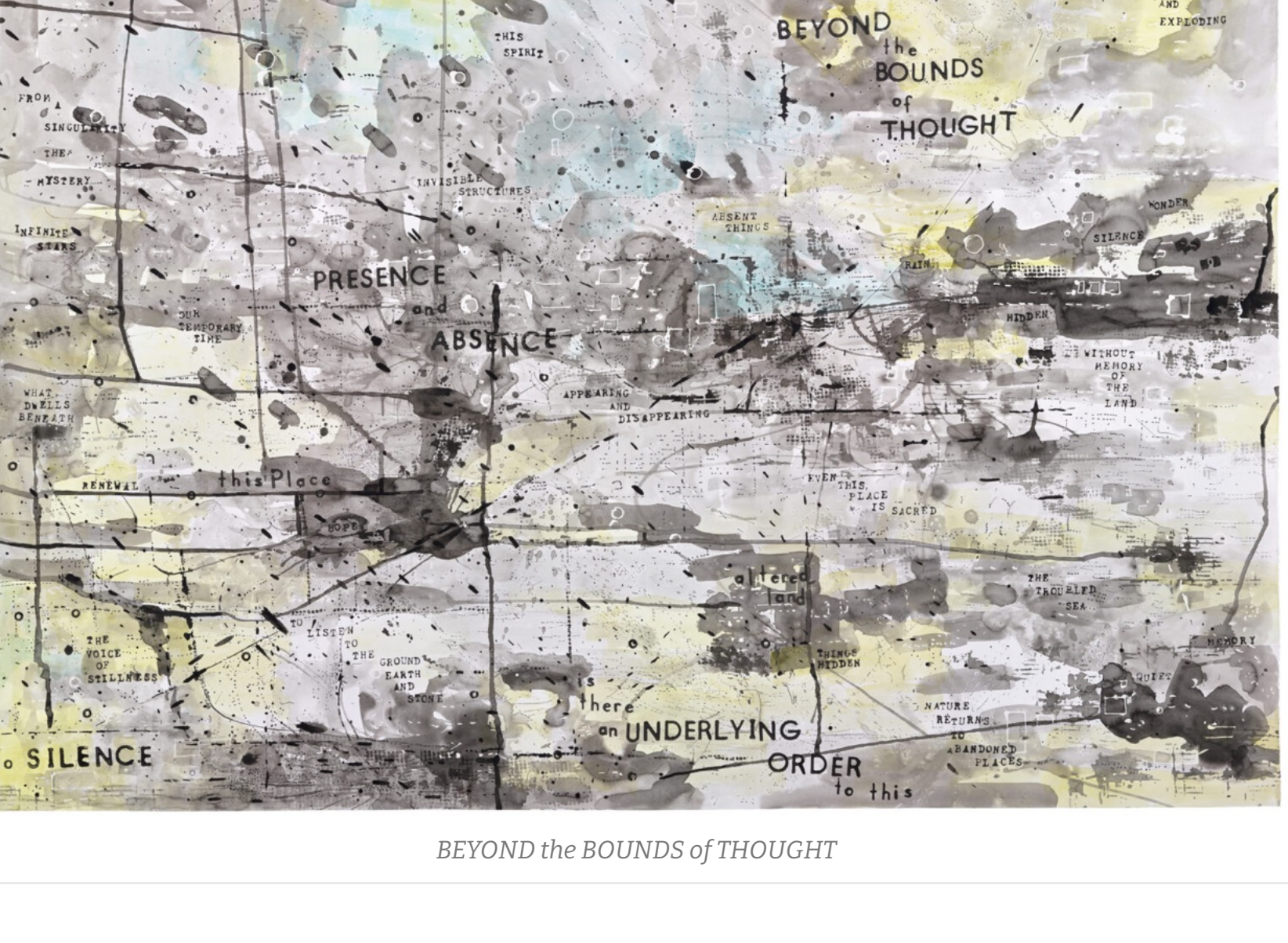
From the Stillness and from the Thunder, watercolor on paper, 3" x 8", 2020



here is the Place, watercolor on paper 3" x 6", 2020



A Portable Homeland, watercolor on paper, 10" x 3", 2018



BEYOND the BOUNDS of THOUGHT



GATHERING LIGHT, watercolor and ink on paper, 33" x 19", 2023



hopeful Green while Worlds DISAPPEAR, watercolor and ink on paper, 2023



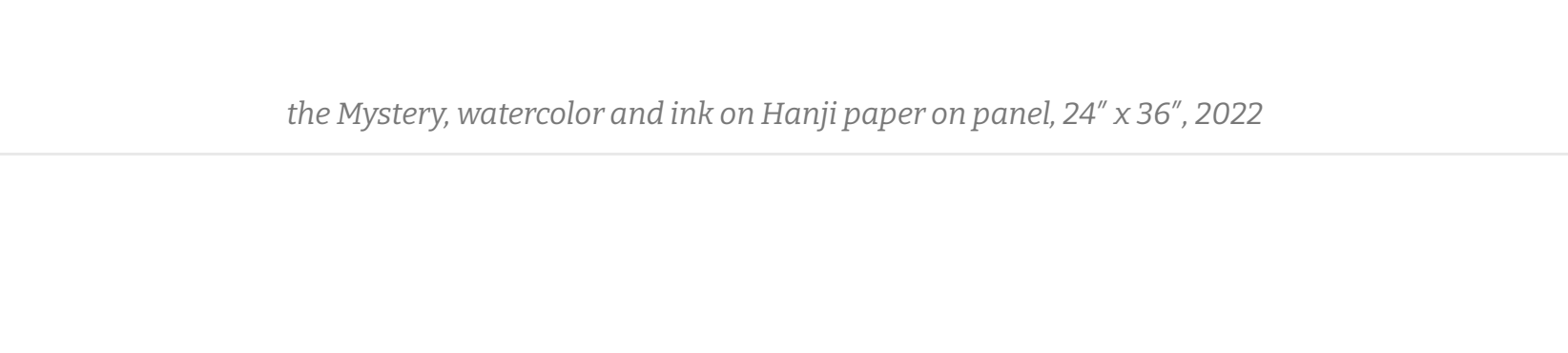
still WANDERING, ink and watercolor on Hanji paper on panel 24" x 48", 2022



the Mystery, watercolor and ink on Hanji paper on panel, 24" x 36", 2022



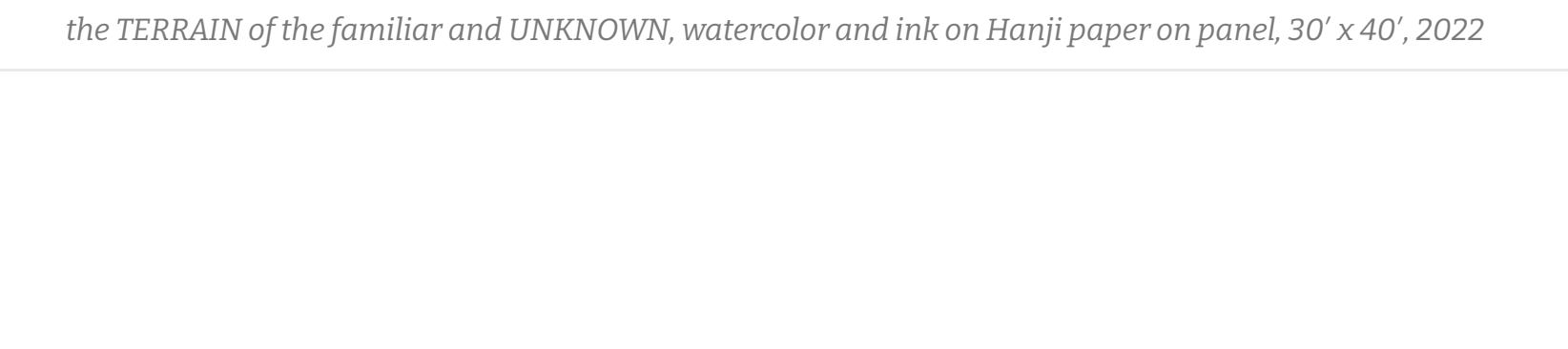
the TERRAIN of the familiar and UNKNOWN, watercolor and ink on Hanji paper on panel, 30" x 40", 2022



this entangled Whole, watercolor and ink on Hanji paper on panel, 24" x 36", 2022



this ENTANGLEMENT, watercolor and ink on Hanji paper on panel, 24" x 48", 2022



This Ungraspable Whole, ink on watercolor paper, 3" x 6", 2021



unfathomable Eternity, watercolor on paper, 12" x 24", 2021



WONDEROUS SPACE, ink and watercolor on Hanji paper on panel, 12" x 24", 2022

<https://kareykessler.com>

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### ABOUT KAREY KESSLER

Karey Kessler (b. 1974) creates map-paintings that contain ideas about physical, spiritual, internal, and temporal spaces. She received her BA in Fine Arts and Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania and an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. She is represented by Shift Gallery in Seattle and her work can be seen in both the flat files of the Pierogi Gallery (NYC) and in the online registry of White Columns Gallery (NYC). Her work is included in the The Map as Art (Princeton Architectural Press, 2009), by Kitty Harmon, From Here to There: A Curious Collection From the Hand Drawn Map Association (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010) and The Embodied Forest (ecoartspace, 2021). Her work is also included in Orion Magazine (2021), Lilith Magazine (2022), The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies (2022) and Vriderpt Magazine (2023). In 2022 Meta Open Arts commissioned her to create a mural at the Meta Reality Labs (Redmond, WA). In 2020 her work was included in Time Sensitive, at the Broto: Art-Climate-Science convention (online due to Covid-19) and in 2019 she participated in the SciArt Initiative Bridge Residency. Kessler has shown her work widely, including exhibits at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Museum (PA), the Weatherspoon Art Museum (NC), and the Katonah Art Museum (NY). She has work currently hanging in Seeing the Unseen: Science + Art at the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art (CA) August 21 – November 18, 2023.

[View all posts with Karey Kessler →](#)

Karey Kessler

October 2023

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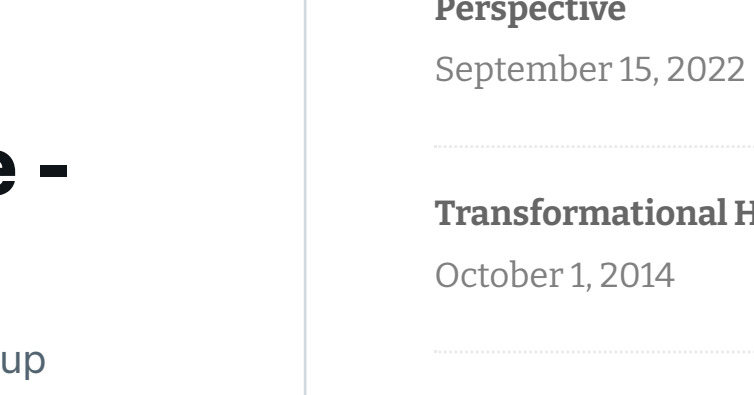
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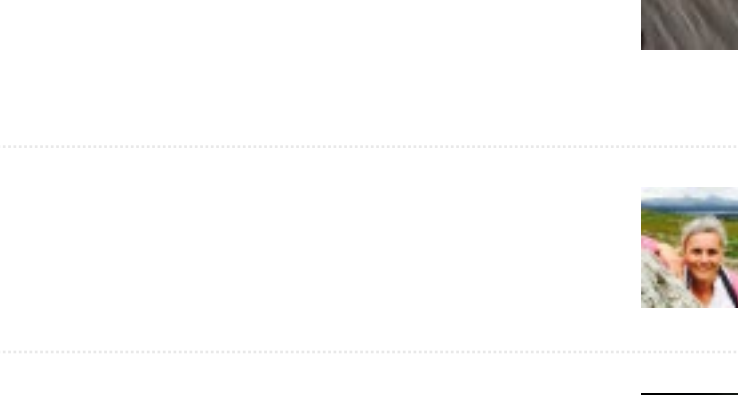
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