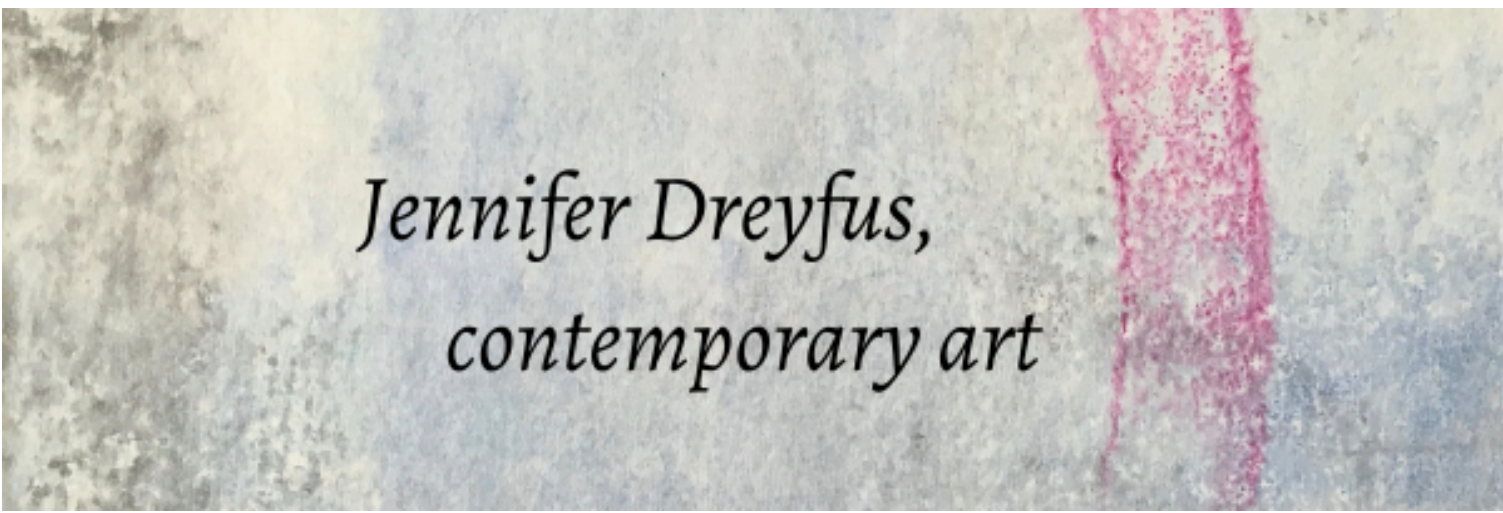


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January 2021

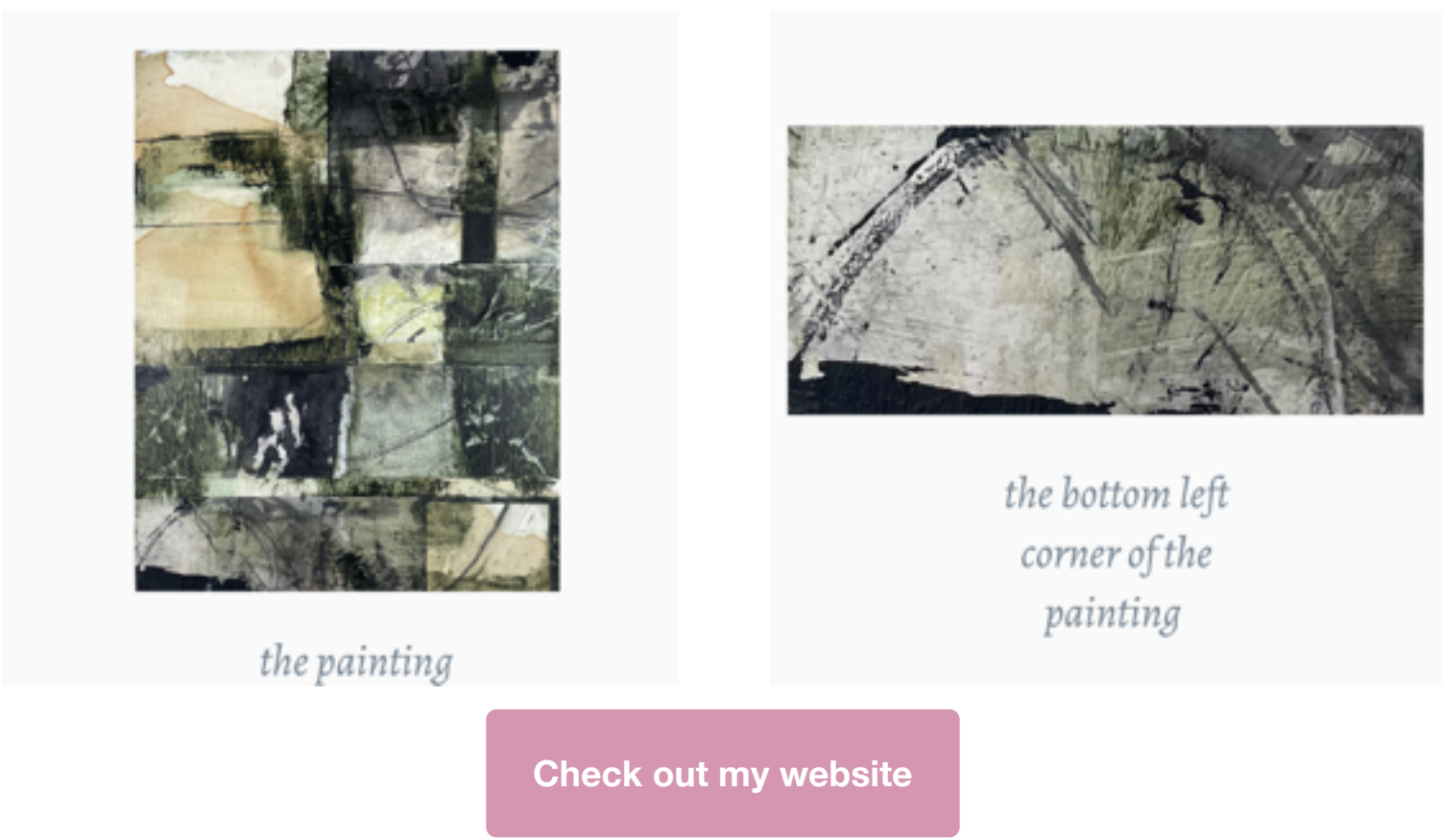
Seems to me that having a blog is like posting your opinion just out in the ether, but I guess that's the point isn't it? I share my thoughts and let others react as they will. So... that said... I'm going to give this a go. My main goal in each quarterly (or so) newsletter will be to put a thought out there for you to consider. Feel free to email me and share your reaction. I'd love to hear it.

What am I thinking about when creating?

People ask me this all the time. The truth is -- not much. When I'm actually creating, my mind is not thinking in the traditional way. I'm just working. I'm not analyzing, feeling or in some specific sort of mood and trying to convey that feeling. I'm just creating. Its liberating to not be 'thinking' so much. It's a bit like walking on the beach and being absorbed in the sound of the waves crashing. I highly recommend finding ways to enter into what some call a state of flow, where your rational, thinking brain takes a backseat to your creative side.

The thinking comes later when I take a critical eye to what was done. Does it work? Why does it work? (more on this in a future newsletter...) How are the colors interacting – how do they push each other or quiet each other? Is it multidimensional? A good abstract painting has visible layers that add complexity and interest. Check out Rothko's large blocks of color and you will see many layers and textures. Get up close to the next abstract painting you look at and realize that most are not flat but layers deep.

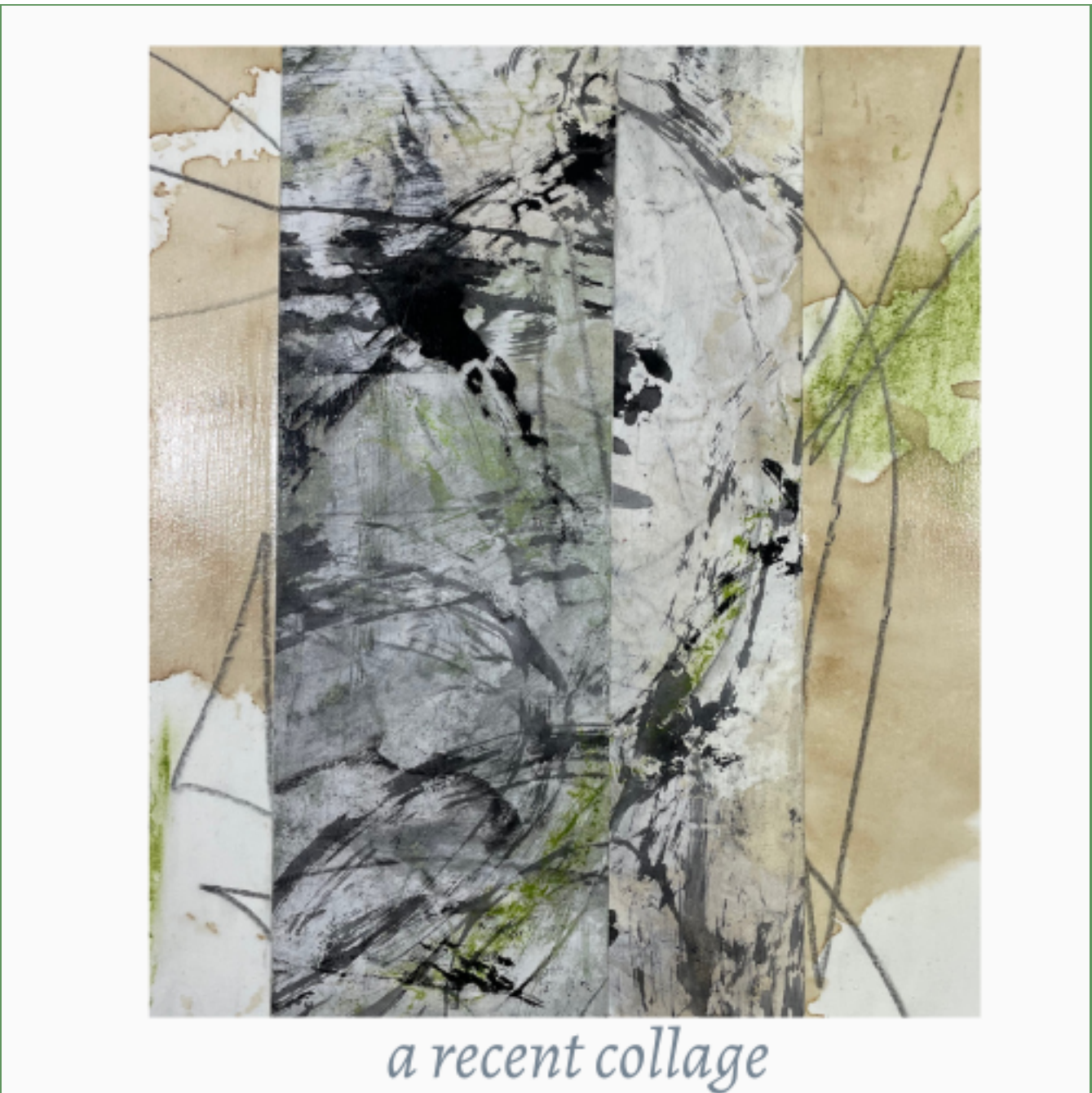
Here's one of my paintings



Winter and art

Winter is the perfect time to play around with art in your home. This is especially true this winter, when we need things to refresh our homes, calm our nerves and fill the holes left by less time with friends and family. Here are some suggestions:

- Look critically at the art in your home and take down items that don't speak to you anymore. If you want, you can put them away (somewhere dry – please not a damp basement). You may find new pleasure in them in a few years or find it easier to part with something that doesn't resonate with you anymore.
- Buy a new piece of art. This is not a plea for you to buy my art but to find something you love – something that brings you joy – and give it a home.
- Change the location of art around your home. Giving a new location to a painting or a sculpture will change the way it looks in your room and to your senses. Switch it up a bit and be daring.
- Get creative yourself. Take an online class, explore your creative side and find some light in this time.



What am I working on these days?

I've been lucky in this time of COVID to take some excellent online art classes. I've taken Experimental Drawing from two exceptional teachers – Jeff Hirst and Priya Vadhyar. Water soluble graphite is a fun way to explore drawing skills. Its inexpensive and just add water and watch it smear and smudge. A Master Class with Jeff Hirst and Lisa Pressman was helpful in teaching me to take a critical eye to my work - finding new ways to understand why something is 'working' and other pieces not so much.

I've brought the techniques learned in these classes to my art practice. I'm now doing collages with experimental drawings. Some I even have covered in wax. Who knows where this will take me, but right now I'm enjoying experimenting with these techniques.



A moment of zen....

Here's [Pádraig Ó Tuama](#) reading his wonderful poem "[The Facts of Life.](#)"



Check out my website



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