

{ Poem 88 }

For Immediate Release
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Crossing Lines

William Downs + Brooke Pickett
April 21 to May 26

opening reception: Saturday, April 21, 6pm
artist talk: Saturday, April 21, 2pm

{Poem88} is very pleased to present *Crossing Lines*, a collaborative endeavor by William Downs (b. 1974, Greenville, SC) and Brooke Pickett (b. 1980, Shreveport, LA) merging line, landscape, and vision into one cohesive body of work. The artists, who met in New Orleans during the summer of 2011, embarked on this journey hoping to synthesize their distinct approaches to drawing and fueled by their admiration for each other's practices. Downs deftly captures movement and gesture, while Pickett's thoughtful drawings depict quirky shapes and indiscernible objects. Together their drawings encompass a multitude of imaginary spaces, ideas, and musings. The project began with a series of conversations that became a desire to harmonize two vastly different voices. More akin to "call and response" than an actual duet, the work produced over the last several months has, in the most literal sense, been made in the same physical space. The drawings represent four distinct groups: drawings made solely by Pickett, those made by Downs, those that clearly lean in one direction or another even though they were made by both artists, and finally there are drawings in which the artists' individual visions disappear, where line and gesture become one. According to the artists, the content of the drawings was never discussed. Instead, an ongoing dialog about materials, various approaches to mark making, and the idea of what it actually means to work so intimately with another artist were important topics of conversation throughout the process and is perhaps, the unintentional subject of this series of drawings.