

FIN 211: Project 2 proposal Feb 12, 2026

CONCEPT

I want my drawings to illustrate a conversation between resistance and letting go. My thesis is two-fold: resistance can be made manifest in art, specifically with use of “resist” processes, and the exploration of resistance opens an avenue to letting go. Supportive research will be found in psychological and Buddhist literature as well in art history, art therapy, and among contemporary artists. My preliminary research into “resist” materials brought up familiar ideas such as wax, tie-dye style folding or banding, and gel medium (usually mixed with acrylic paint but an option to apply unevenly on paper so that ink or other media are unevenly absorbed).

CONTEXT

The final output will be multiple drawings on prepared substrates (initial ideas for substrates are fabric, rice paper, and newspaper, I would like them to be quite absorbent). The preparation will be by use of resist techniques. For the resist, I will deepen the metaphor by using my fisted or tightly grasped hand as the resist agent. I intend to make the resist pattern the background or underpinning for drawings made by an open and relaxed hand. I hope to communicate gestures of release that emerge from that background resistance. It feels quite experimental and responsive at this point, and I’m not sure how and where to present the work until I’ve dived in further.

PRODUCTION:

To make the “fist as resist” idea a little more explicit, here are some examples: 1) a crumpled or gathered bit of fabric or paper is pinched or fisted in my hand so that the clenched hand is the exclusion agent. I then dunk the material and my hand in the dye – possibly coffee, tea, ink.; 2) a layer of gel medium is applied to the substrate and while it is still wet I use my fist to press into the medium, creating pits and peaks in the medium. Once it dries I can apply ink, dye, charcoal or graphite powder to make the fist resist patterns visible. I expect multiple medium-sized drawings, perhaps a gallery of 6 to 8 one-foot square pieces, that exemplify the tension and release of resist / let go in a human body.