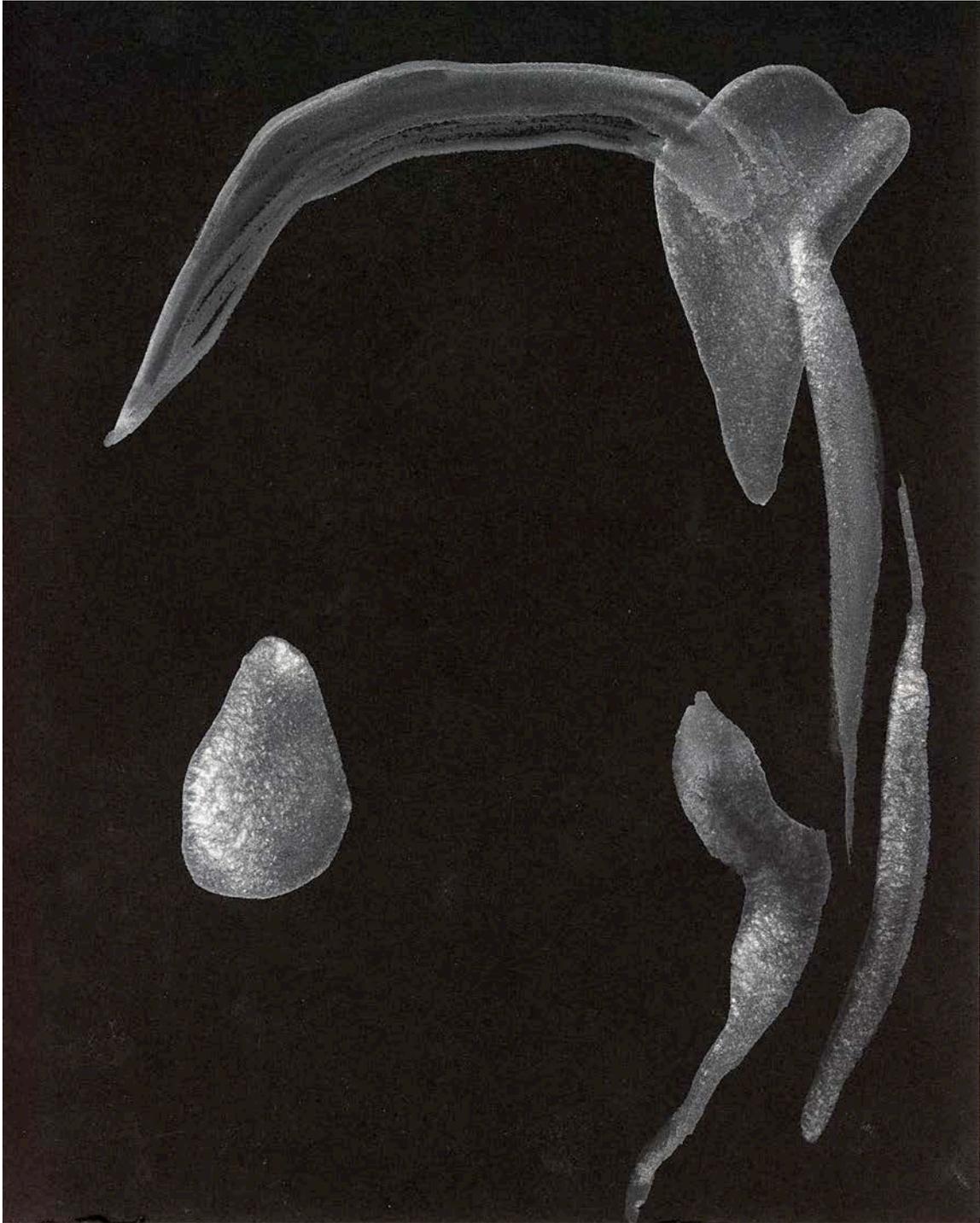


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STUDIO ART | SPRING 2022

## Remnant

By Tia Forsman



My work—in particular these recent watercolors (the 'Remnant' series)—is a response to my experiences throughout the past three years in medical school. As an artist, I found myself drawn to all the images included in my lectures, and then on the wards I found myself even more deeply drawn to the radiology reading rooms throughout the hospital. I became interested in how radiographs serve as distilled moments of a human narrative, an illness experience in greyscale. It felt both incredibly elegant but also painfully brief to me. So I turned to my studio to investigate my personal relationship to these images. I wanted to turn off the "objective" answers we often look for in medical images I was being trained to find as a medical student and instead turn on a more emotional response to the grey shapes and shadows that I collected from the wards. Each piece's composition references actual images I saw of my patients. I focused on shapes and transparencies that interested me, choosing to lean into abstraction as a way to acknowledge the depth and what I perceived as an "uncapturability" of everything in a medical narrative.



I am applying to radiology residencies and know my future career will involve shifting constantly between the objective, medical evidence in images and the emotional, subjective nature of what an image means to a patient in their illness journey. A CT scan, MRI or chest X-ray can be a punctuating event for any patient, and I use my art practice to remind myself of that intimate moment of clarity (one I personally experienced when a close family member of mine was unexpectedly hospitalized during my second year of medical school and all of my family's hopes seemed to hinge on the results of a single brain MRI).



© *Remnant Series* by Tia Forsman

These pieces all speak to the focus of the *Intima* journal in that they aim to introduce tenderness, uncertainty and empathy to the medical radiologic image, an object in medicine that is usually otherwise seen as cold and clinical. I am interested in the grey areas, the overlaps and the blurry edges that continually humble me both as a future physician and an artist.

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**Tia Forsman was born and raised in Scottsdale, Arizona. She graduated from Brown University in May 2019 with degrees in both Visual Art and Health and Human Biology and completed a honors thesis in Visual Art. As a student in Brown's Program in Liberal Medical Education, she attends Warren Alpert Medical School. Forsman, who is involved in the AMS Arts Council, a medical student led group that Curates shows displayed in the medical school, has shown her paintings in Providence, RI, at the List Art Center, the Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts, the Bell Gallery and the Brown University Science Center. @tia\_roseart**

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