



Michael A. Farmer
Intuition, 2011
 Relief Print
 17" x 24"

Some philosophers hold that man knows some things *a priori*, or intuitively. My interest in intuition led me to create art that begins with the process of signing my name. I find that my signature varies from the signing of documents to the signing of checks, and from contracts to artwork. This variation happens through my unconscious recognition of the situation and my immediate, unconscious response to it. In my artwork, I attempt to use various forms of my signatures to build imagery from the overlapping of lines, letting my subconscious recognize patterns and, ultimately, create images. These images are then carved, creating a relief. The surface is removed with knives, which leaves an uneven, scarred matrix symbolizing the matrix of intuitive and *a posteriori*, or empirical, knowledge that characterizes human living. I want viewers to begin by seeing my images intuitively, creating meaning for themselves. I want them to build their own interpretation based on their own experiences. To me, this is a freedom that is not written in stone but that, through an encounter with the other, rises up from within.