

Sand and Wash

Working with bitumen in different ways and in bulk (producing a steady stream of work), I have found it necessary to separate out the processes in which I work.

I discovered through a process, or comedy of errors in dripping bitumen— that in some images I created a scene, with multiple figures (for liquid selves) that I wasn't happy with. Taking the bitumen out of focus and layering with gesso –I often realised I didn't want to remove or destroy it completely, so sanding down the gessoed bitumen, (this process has been used for other projects: *Through, Wallpaper Stories, and Liquid Selves*) the cross-hatching from the sanding process looks a little like etching – but when a glaze (single or mixed colours) is smoothed over the bitumen with a cloth, the bitumen bleeds through, so every line, word, or pattern (mistake or otherwise) creates a tracery though the paint. The bitumen often mixes with the glaze medium, adding a rich, translucent brown. It is difficult to control the 'bleed', and produces chance subtleties. Other layers of bitumen paint are sometimes added.

Some of these works (experiments) have text layered underneath, which may be hidden, or as in *Deeper Down*, are revealed by wiping the glaze over when wet.

