

# The Contemporary

## DOVE BRADSHAW

Dove Bradshaw's art changes faster than most; that is its point and its splendor. And by acknowledging indeterminacy as central to the working of the natural world, to a universe that expands, Bradshaw's work exults in the excellence of nature as it is, in chance and randomness and the irreversibility of time.

Bradshaw works by setting natural processes in motion, then withdrawing to observe the results. Her *Contingency* series demonstrates unpredictable chemistry in action. Canvases of linen, canvas or flax paper incorporate unstable chemicals that respond over time to changes in light and humidity and record the process of oxidation. In the *Indeterminacy* series, stones bleed into stones, leaving haunting patterns.

The changes occur on two time scales. There is the immediate action of the chemicals. Then there is the slower, evolutionary one in which the environment becomes catalyst. Most people who see this art will not see it change, will not visit the works often enough and over a long enough period of time to witness the evolution. But we *know* that chemistry is at work, we understand that what we see is a record of a process and we see in the works their impermanence and, through their challenging the notion of an art object as reliably one thing, their impertinence.

— Mark Swed



Dove Bradshaw, *Indeterminacy xvii*, 1997. Collection of the artist.

"Dove Bradshaw/Jan Henle" is organized by Julie Lazar, MOCA director of experimental programs.

It is part of MOCA's ongoing Focus Series, which is supported by Mitsui Fudosan (USA), Inc.

**FOCUS SERIES** "Dove Bradshaw/Jan Henle" is on view at MOCA from August 9 through October 25

ART TALK SUNDAY

AUGUST 9, 3 PM

Artist Dove Bradshaw