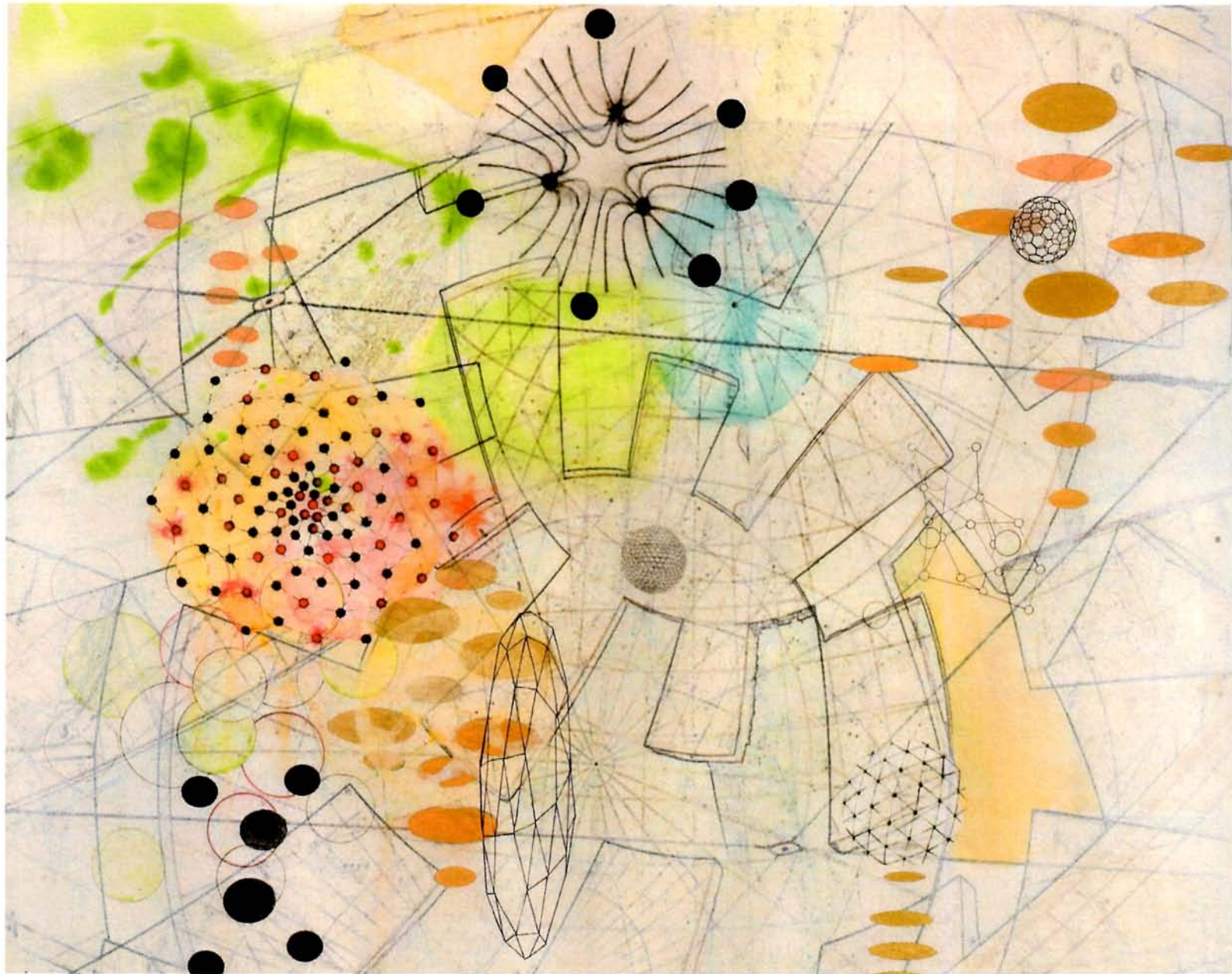


CONTEMPORARY Drawing

Key Concepts
and Techniques



Margaret Davidson

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Translucent Paper

There are a few artists who work on translucent surfaces, and each is exploring the various concepts involved—space, surface, illusion—in a unique way. The artist pictured here, Paul Fabozzi, works with graphite on Mylar. I had thought at first that he worked on both sides of a frosted Mylar, with the clear lines and shapes worked on the front and the blurry lines and shapes drawn on the back. In fact, he works only on the front, drawing some of his forms crisply, and some in a softer, blurry way.

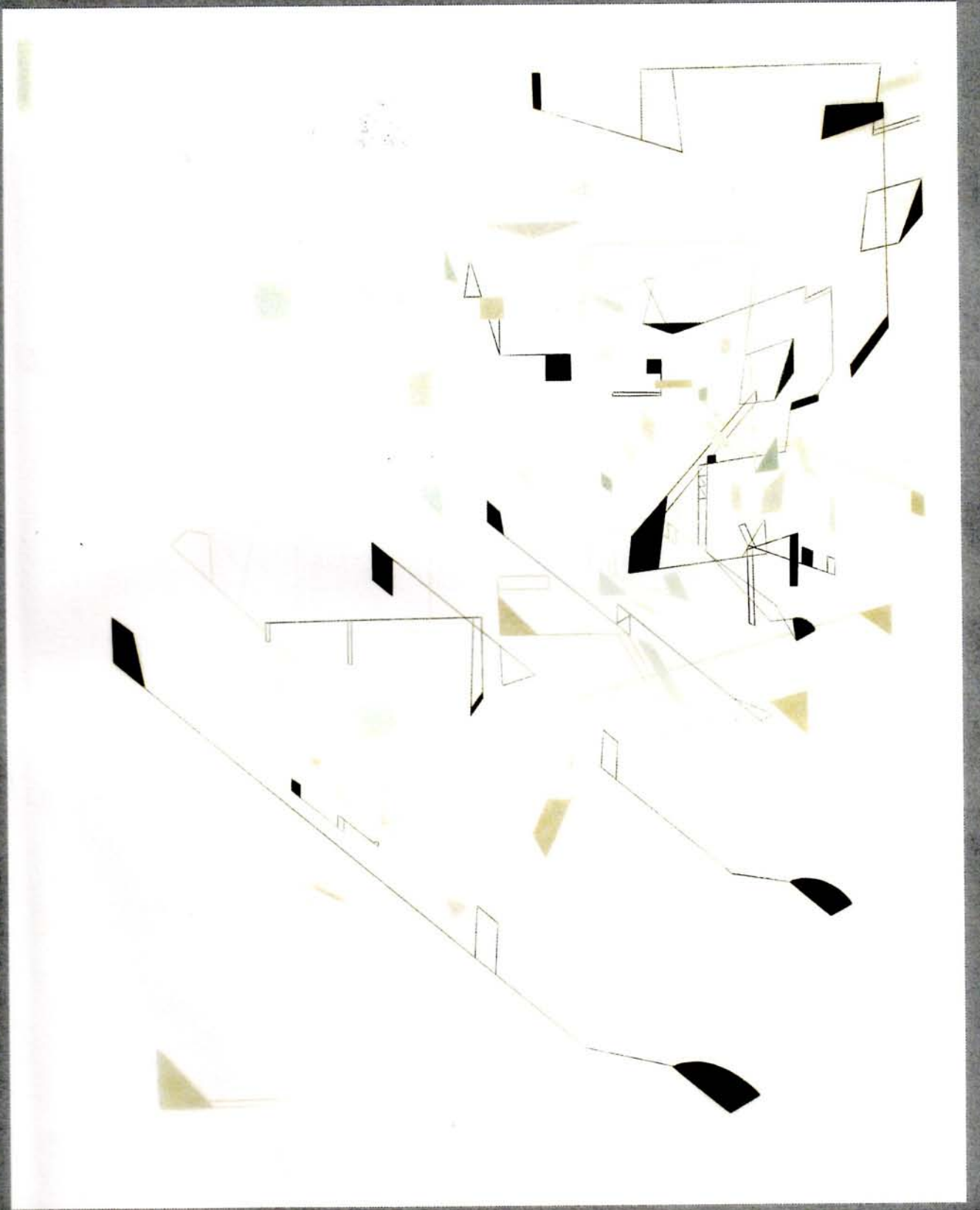
Fabozzi is interested in how the Mylar does not always seem to have a firm, solid surface. Because of its translucency, some marks on the surface appear firmly attached, while others seem to float into the air just in front of the actual drawing. This surface, which is both there and not there, is something he is investigating in his work, looking for that moment when things change, and giving the viewer a spatial experience that derives from, and depends on, the elusive quality of this particular surface.

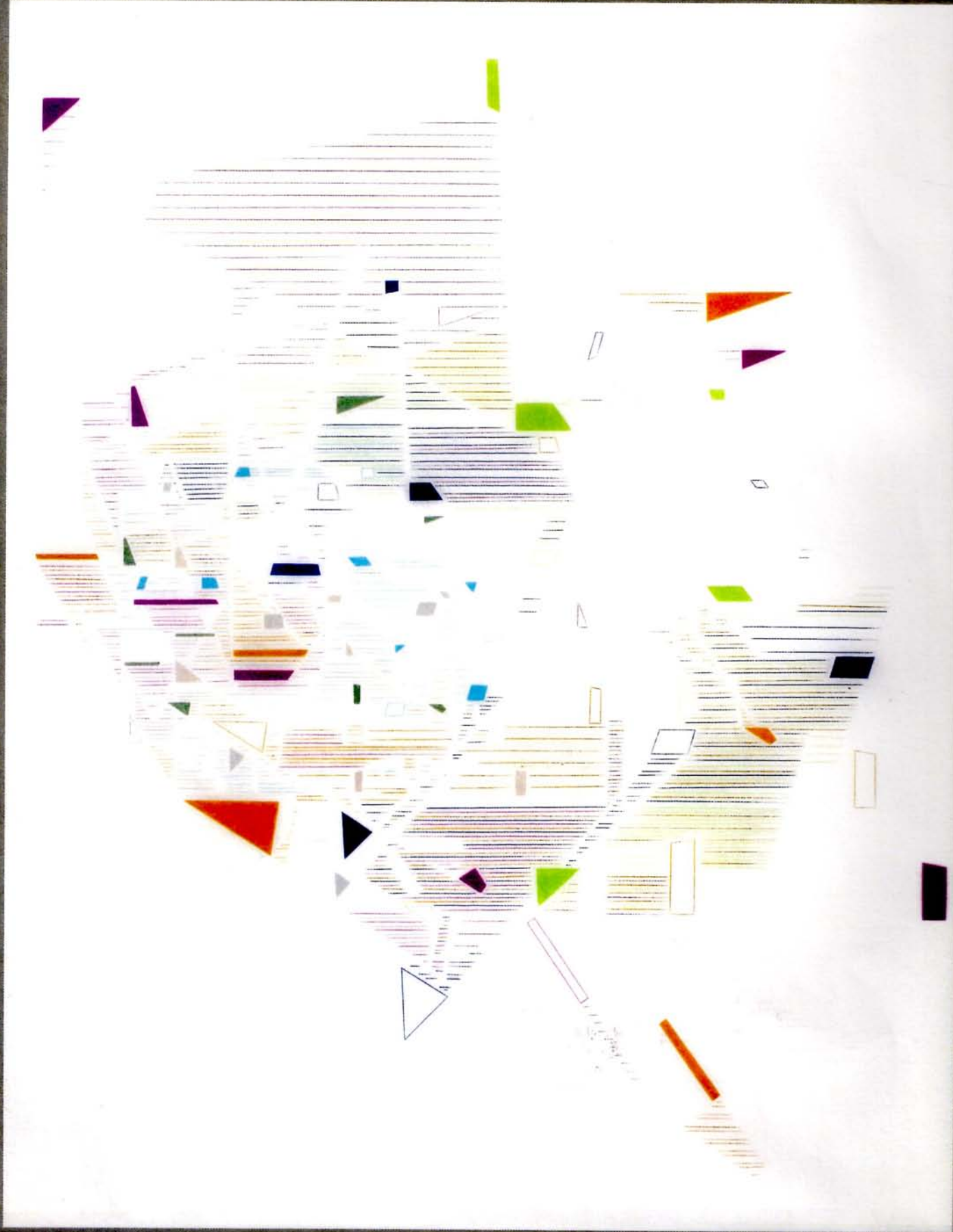


Because of its translucency, some marks on the surface appear firmly attached, while others seem to float into the air just in front of the actual drawing.

OPPOSITE Paul Fabozzi, *Spectral Variant #2b 8.m*, 2008, graphite on Mylar, 38 x 19 1/2 inches (96.5 x 74.9 cm) © 2008 Paul Fabozzi
Photo: Michael Marfione

With the simplest of materials worked on translucent paper, Fabozzi creates forms that appear to shift and glide on a surface that seems to both melt and harden.





CHAPTER SIX

MATERIALS

In this chapter, I want to divide things up into two sections: materials used to draw *with*, and materials used to draw *on*. Both of these subjects are complicated and interesting. Drawing artists relate to this information in every kind of way, from wanting to know the ingredients of everything they use, to deliberately choosing not to know. I fall into the former category, so I want to provide the information; everyone else can pick and choose through it all and take what is wanted.