

# Elena Volkova

## Artist Statement for *Propositions*

Several concepts come to mind when thinking about liminality: uncertainty, openness, potential, as well as the state of becoming, transition, and neutrality. From a practical perspective, this is the state of Neither-Nor or Either-Or, quantitatively holding the same value and relevance in opposition. *The Liminal* surrounds us; it is the periphery of every moment of our existence, the behind-the-scenes background of our reality. It makes no judgments or assertions and it constitutes our *everyday* mundane poetry. It is simply there. In the liminal state, the boundaries and factors dissolve, bringing overlooked but existing moments to the foreground.

### The Window Project

A window is liminal. It is a transition between the inside and the outside, being neither one nor the other – or perhaps it is both. Windows bring us glimpses of what is on the other side. They are the lens through which our expectations, our hopes, and often our disappointments are brought to reality. However, *windows* remain neutral and indifferent to our outlook and perceptions.

*The Window Project* is about liminal space. It is a site-responsive installation that utilizes the windows in the Area 405 gallery. *The Window Project* challenges our perceptions and expectations; viewers expecting to encounter windows can instead find themselves facing a brick wall. This is a reality that defeats the entire purpose of a window; it presents the viewer with a window to nowhere. These windows create absurd situations in which our expectations and judgments are inconsequential. All possible romantic notions about windows fall – they are transformed into dysfunctional architectural elements that have a disconcerting impact. However, if a window is a neutral entity and only the means to either confirm or reject our expectations regarding “the other side”, it still serves its liminal purpose. It is still merely a threshold.

### *Paperscapes*

*Paperscapes* is a series of graphite drawings that also focus on the idea of liminality. *Paperscapes* are drawings of blank pieces of paper on white paper. By definition, a “scape”, as in *landscape*, is an expanse of scenery, a vista; it is a representation of something extensive. *Paperscapes* present the viewer with a blank page, a field, a vista where nothing is happening. But at the same time the drawings suggest potential and the state of becoming.