

## **Artist Statement**

Catherine Neumann

*Department of Educational Administration, Foundations and Psychology, University of  
Manitoba, catherine.neumann@umanitoba.ca*

Title: incite (81/2 x 11 Mixed Media Gel Print).

The piece represents my thoughts about how I teach, urge on and encourage my students and how my students teach, urge on and encourage me. My students teach and inspire me in their ability to critically think, transcend assumptions and function well in complex, increasingly polarized contexts. This piece came as an artwork, as opposed to words, as the sentiment is meant to be ethereal/abstract to indicate the connectedness, agency and ability of people.

The colours in the piece are muted and soft, flowing and connecting to each other, indicating the connectedness of all things and the power individuals' can/could/do/do not have in making the world a better place. The idea is hopeful, carnivalesque (inspired by philosopher M. Bakhtin 1895-1975) and meant to empower and make aware the unaware or chronically oppressed. The piece is inspired by my study of organizational theory and leadership. The idea expresses traditions of interpretivism and critical theory, but in a post post-modern dialogic way using irony, playfulness and ambivalence. Reclaiming conflict, interconnectedness, resisting and re-building through deconstruction and reconstruction from lost voices—are a few of the themes one could attach to the piece.