

Moore choose the title “What Are Years?”—especially since it seems to have no relation to the topic of the poem? “Years,” units of time, are never mentioned—in fact, the only time mentioned is unquantifiable: “eternity.” This juxtaposition further demonstrates the principle of confinement, for years essentially confine and make eternity temporal. In this manner, the title embodies the main principle of imprisonment that is expounded upon in the body of the poem, which uses enjambment, caesura, and other poetic devices to exemplify Moore’s message that a poem can achieve a natural freedom of syntax within the confines of a strict structure.



Jessica Swanner
Emergence
Acrylic on canvas