

Throughout my life I have found myself drawn to the natural world. I loved being in the garden with my Grandfather, planting and harvesting. I would create cities from pinecones and bark and fill them with citizens carefully crafted from Hollyhock plants. I kept plants in my room growing up - watering, trimming and watching for new growth. I learned lessons from plants: patience, empathy, and survival of the strong. This fascination with nature is the basis for my work and manifests itself in paintings, drawings, sculpture and installation. The work I create is an exploration into how individuals nurture and develop relationships, societies and ideas and then create carefully crafted identities based in these themes, all in the context of botanic imagery. Conceptually, I deconstruct relationships, events and personal moments and place them in a visual narrative evoking imagery from the natural world.

In the 2 dimensional works, I use handmade plant and soil pigments as well as more traditional inks and water-based media. The organic materials have been collected from various locations throughout the U.S., thus creating a direct connection between my materials and events and relationships in my life. The ephemeral sculptures made from plant material are nevertheless the subject of the drawings and paintings but instead a tangible context for the environments I create. They allow me to explore the imagery through process and materials. I enjoy presenting beautiful imagery measured against presumed sinister and threatening elements that challenge the viewer to question what lurks beneath. It is at this point that the work begins to take on a persona of botanical magic realism forcing the exploration of personal relationships and events in an alternative context.

In examining the relationship between people, plants and place, I continually try to weave the strings of art and agriculture, myth and magic, and healing and hurting into an ongoing inquisitive whole.