

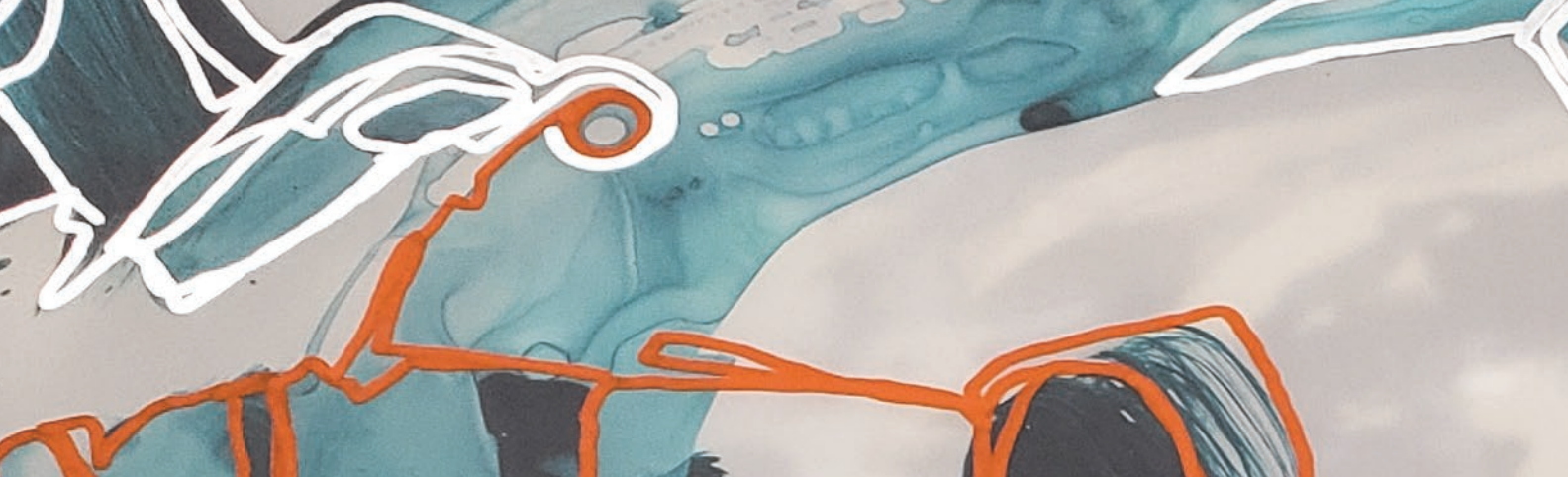


Gowanus Swim Society Art Collective

SYNAPSES

August 19-October 30, 2019





Gowanus Swim Society is a Brooklyn-based art collective that formed in the art studios along the Gowanus Canal in 2014. The collective meets regularly to provide a forum for sharing information, artist resources, and support. The Swim Society works together to accomplish common goals, hold one another accountable for personal progress through group critiques, and to acquire new skills from one another. As part of the collective, GSS also hosts public social events, exhibits in group exhibitions regularly, and organizes art markets. They are always eager to collaborate with other artists and organizations to work towards common goals while creating a fun and welcoming environment.





JESSICA DALRYMPLE

JOHN FISK

NATALIE FISK

ABIGAIL GROFF

KRISTEN HASKELL

MELISSA JOHNSON

SUZY KOPF

MARY NEGRO

CHRISTOPHER DILLEN PHELPS

CURATED BY KRISTEN HASKELL



JESSICA DALRYMPLE

@Jessicadalrympleart



My work is about how I see and value the landscape that surrounds me. My recent work celebrates nature in the city and advocates for urban green space and infrastructure. My process begins by observing, photographing, and sketching an environment. Back at the studio I fuse sensory memory and digital imagery into compositions in oils and mixed media. In my oil paintings I combine painterly and photo realism to evoke a sense of place and to seduce the viewer into seeing the natural beauty (existing and potential) of New York City's landscape. With urban sprawl a likely reality of the future it seems crucial to incorporate and cultivate greater swaths of nature into the built environment for greater health and well-being.

The pieces in this exhibit are from an in-progress series exploring New York City Parks in all five boroughs. Their mixed media construction particularly speaks to the theme; just as synapses are a meeting point of connectivity, so too where these different images meet and connect to each other is an important junction. Much thought and creativity went into selecting, adjoining, and weaving together the various perspectives of the landscape in order to best express both my personal experience of each park as well as its ecological characteristics.





Study for NYC Natural; Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn
Mixed media on canvas · 36" x 12" · 2019



Study for NYC Natural; Kissena Park, Queens
Mixed media on canvas · 36" x 12" · 2019



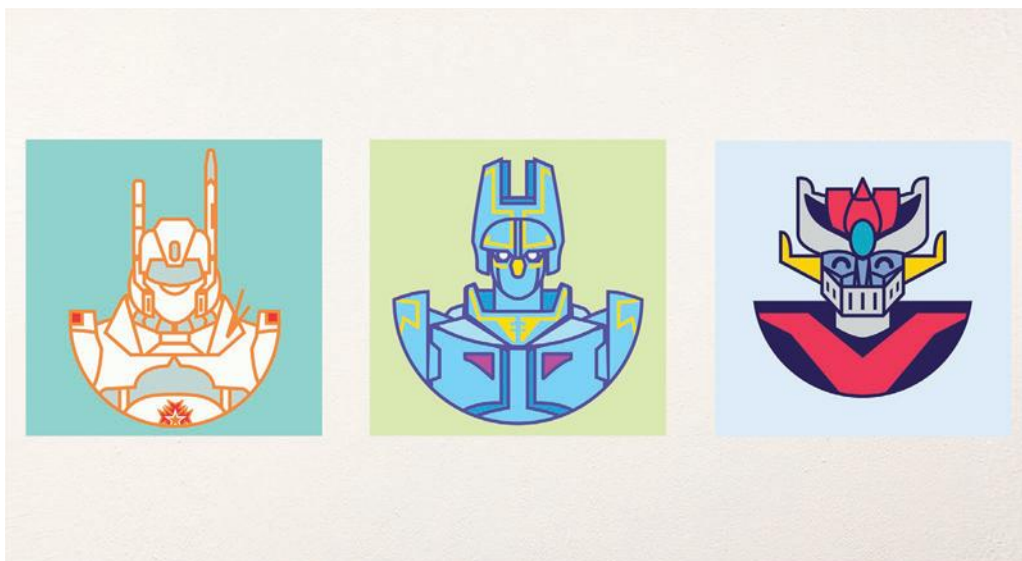
Study for NYC Natural; Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan
Mixed media on canvas · 36" x 12" · 2019

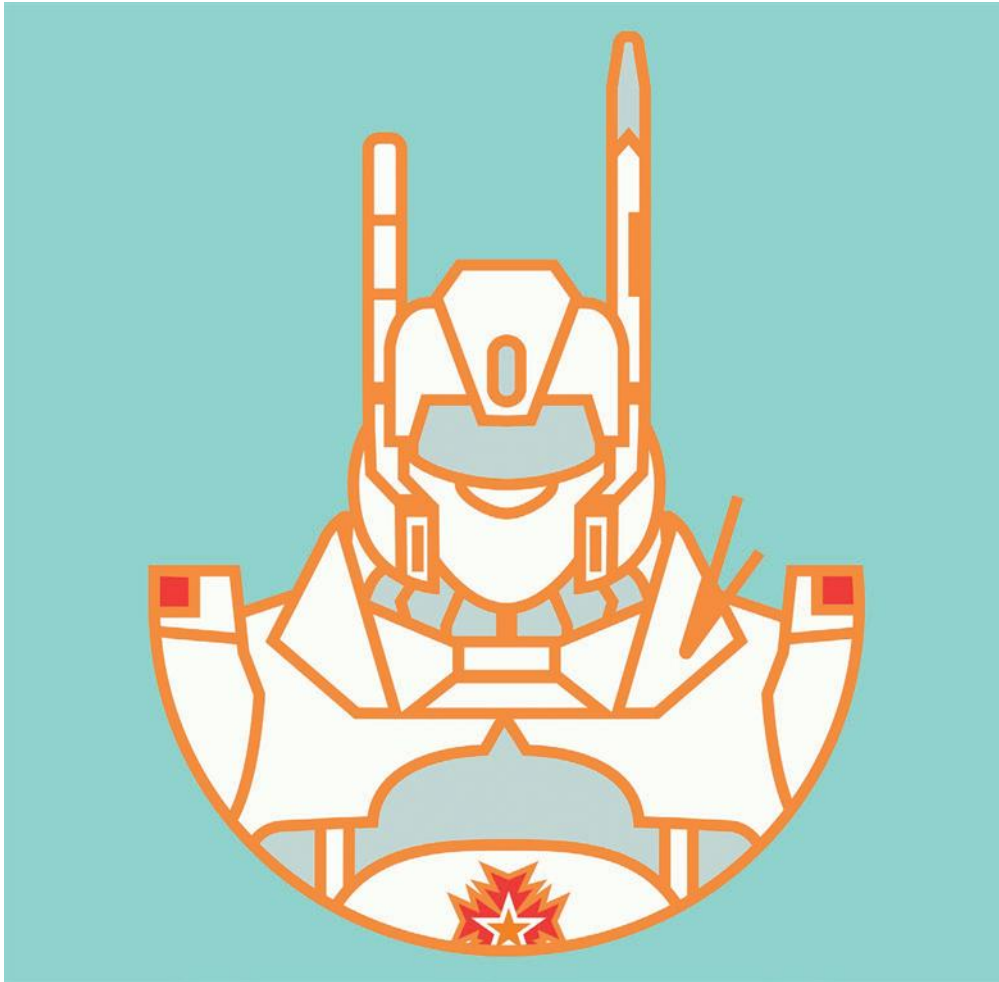
JOHN FISK

@fiskofury



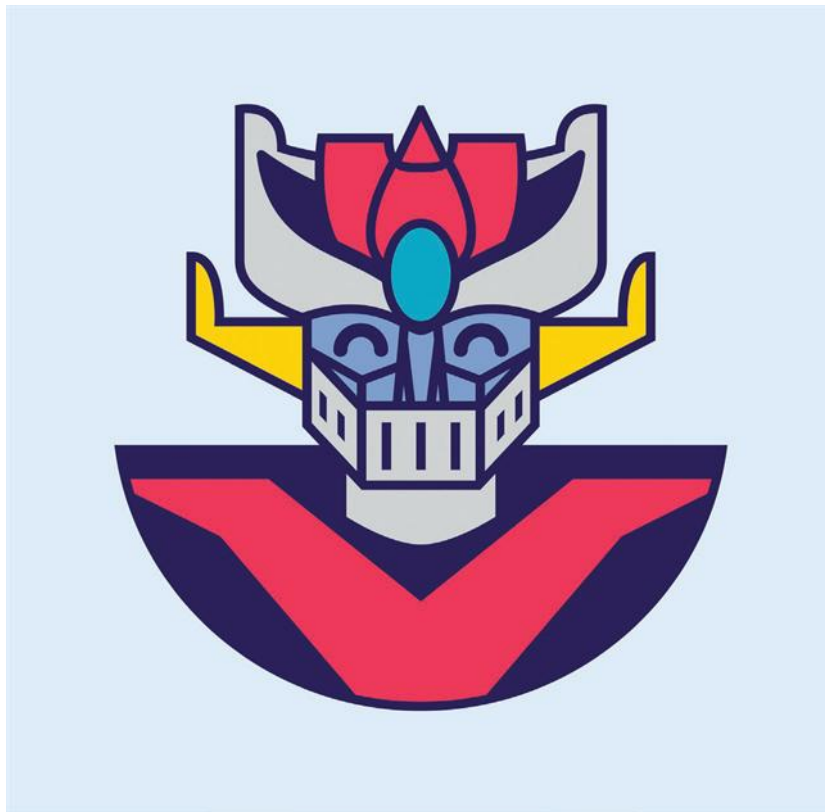
Fisk is an award-winning Creativity Wizard who resides in Brooklyn, NY. Receiving training at The Art Institute of Seattle, he has over 20 years design experience and is featured in *Graphis*, *Creativity*, and *Really Good Logos Explained*. With clients such as Disney, SiriusXM, Mattel, and Activision | Blizzard he pushes forth creativity utilising hand crafted mediums with a digital finalization.





Kawaiilabor

Print on aluminum · 24" x 24" · 2019



Kawaiigor (top)

Print on aluminum · 24" x 24" · 2019

Great Kawaiizinge (bottom)

Print on aluminum · 24" x 24" · 2019

NATALIE FISK

@msnataliefisk



XOXO Orgasm symbolizes a departure from a previous mode of practice into a new strategy that incorporates elements from my intimate and personal experience as a Hispanic woman. To make this large work on paper I took a familiar pattern from a beloved Mexican blanket that I've had my entire life. Using this pattern as the base structure for this work, I then drew oval shapes with water and poured inks and paints into them. The watercolor effect created these beautiful organic feminine shapes. I then used watercolor pencil to create a gradient in red and purple to enhance the movement within the work. The final touch to this painting was a harsh act - one where I used medium and pigment in acrylic to disrupt the harmony of my expression. It's a feeling that relates being a woman and being Hispanic. Where even moments of secure identity can be disrupted by harsh acts that come out of left field.

The latter work, *Acrylic Study 2 for Anxiety*, is from a series of paintings called *Studies for Anxiety*. The goal of this series is to understand materially the best mode of painting *Papel Picado* in layers. *Papel Picado* are Mexican wedding banners that are used during celebrations. It is through this lens of *Papel Picado* that I will examine a series of recurring dreams about the fatality of water I have had throughout my life.

My works move through different ideations from series to series, honoring many different experiences in my life. The use of materials and symbols from my own personal culture tie them together over the years.





XOXO Orgasm

Mixed Media on paper · 4' x 5' · 2014



Acrylic Study #2 for Anxiety
Acrylic on canvas · 18" x 24" · 2019

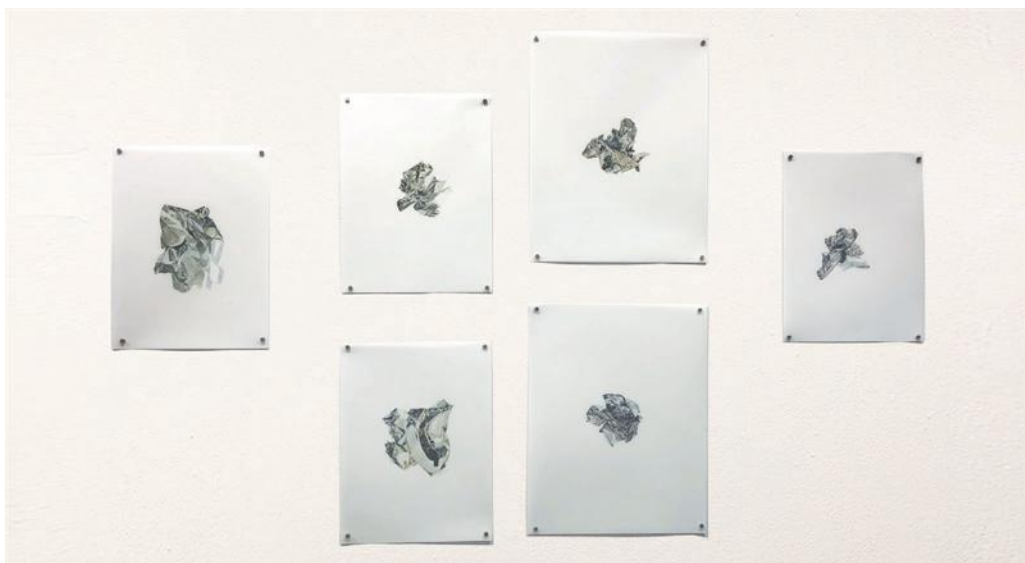
ABIGAIL GROFF

@abigailgroff



These works on paper began as line drawings inspired by my father's physical behaviors as he descends deeply into dementia and how they are manifested in his interactions with objects. For a time, some of his many repetitive behaviors were folding cloth and tearing paper. The paintings are informed by observation and focused on the simplification of objects in space.

They are a rhythmic and methodical way to find mindfulness and order amidst heartbreaking, hopeless circumstances.





Body

Watercolor and colored pencil on Yupo paper · 11" x 14" · 2019



Circle

*Watercolor and colored pencil on Yupo paper
9" x 12" · 2019*

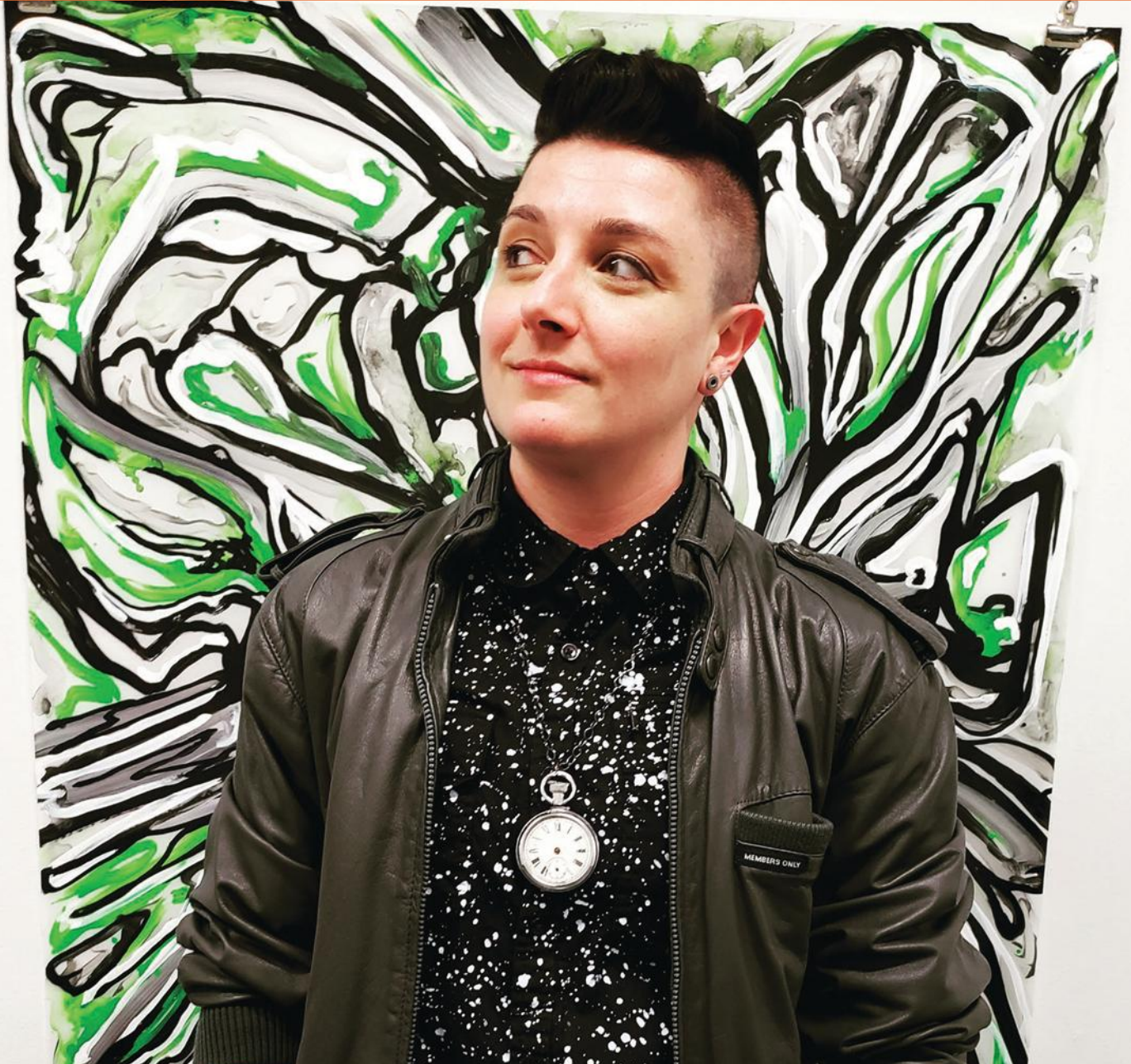


Coven

*Watercolor and colored pencil on Yupo paper
9" x 12" · 2019*

KRISTEN HASKELL

@haskieville



Drawing is not only an artistic practice it is a way to view the world. I experience the world in multiple visions and the translation of my experience exists within various mediums and techniques. Without light, the reaction of vision would not exist. When light is altered, the object of perception changes as well, allowing the viewer to experience the same object or scene in a variety of ways. The experience of the world changes depending on the time of day, it is a cycle of perception. I challenge myself to explore all of these cycles and then transfer my experience through drawing. The current process that is the topic of exploration is process itself. Everything that exists within this world has a process and continues to cycle after the demise. Decomposure is a part of the life cycle that is frequently unobserved or underappreciated by most societies. By illustrating the process of decomposition within multiple states and media, a new cycle is created for the recently demised or perished.





Parasitic Detachment: A Metaphor

*Fluid acrylic, mylar, acetate, tape, LED lights, paper
Dimensions variable · 2019*

Vertebrae Toothpick

*Fluid acrylic, plexiglass, LED lights, wood
18" x 24" x 4' · 2019*



If Dracula Were Vegan
Fluid acrylic, mylar
35" x 60" · 2019

It's The Little Things That Get Ya
Fluid acrylic, mylar
Dimensions variable · 2019

Opacity Puzzle
Fluid acrylic, mylar, adhesive, tape
36" x 60" · 2019

MELISSA JOHNSON

@sassmastercat



Melissa Johnson is an artist working in music and video art in Brooklyn, NY. She likes to tell her stories through high energy, often musical, art films. Human empowerment, glitter, and fantasy are recurring themes in her pieces.

In *The Look*, through a series of fantasy dressing room scenes in a fantasy mall, Melody Henson finds empowerment through fashion. With song and movement the protagonist communicates her belief in self-expression, sisterhood, and the power of diversity to the viewer in the form of a music video.





The Look

Single channel video · Duration: 3:15 min · 2018



The Look

Single channel video · Duration: 3:15 min · 2018

SUZY KOPF

@suzykopf



I am interested in the American propensity towards sameness, which contrasts with our historical desire to be recognized as individuals. I see the root of this tacit banality in the stale beauty of the midcentury.

I am interested in the erosion of the populated American landscape and our nation's ever-shifting cultural memory seen rotting today along highway corridors and in planned housing subdivisions. My work is about shared history and missed connections. I am fascinated by the stories we tell ourselves about America— our homegrown mythology.

My work is research-based and multi-disciplinary. I collapse time through photography, mixed-media and painting, making an examination of history through study of primary sources. I am inspired by deviations from the model: gaudy floral wallpaper intended to personalize, a splash of unexpected fresh paint, an improvised fence of diesel drums. The works included here focus solely on the banal houseplant which I see as a symbol of hope within the everyday.

I am a student of the school of the American hyperreal— our national conflation and acceptance of a symbol for the real thing. Living through the era of fake news Americans define ourselves by what we want to be true rather than reality. What does the promise of prosperity mean in a time when we know we can't all have it?





Jade

Oil on canvas · 21.25" x 18.5" (framed) · 2019

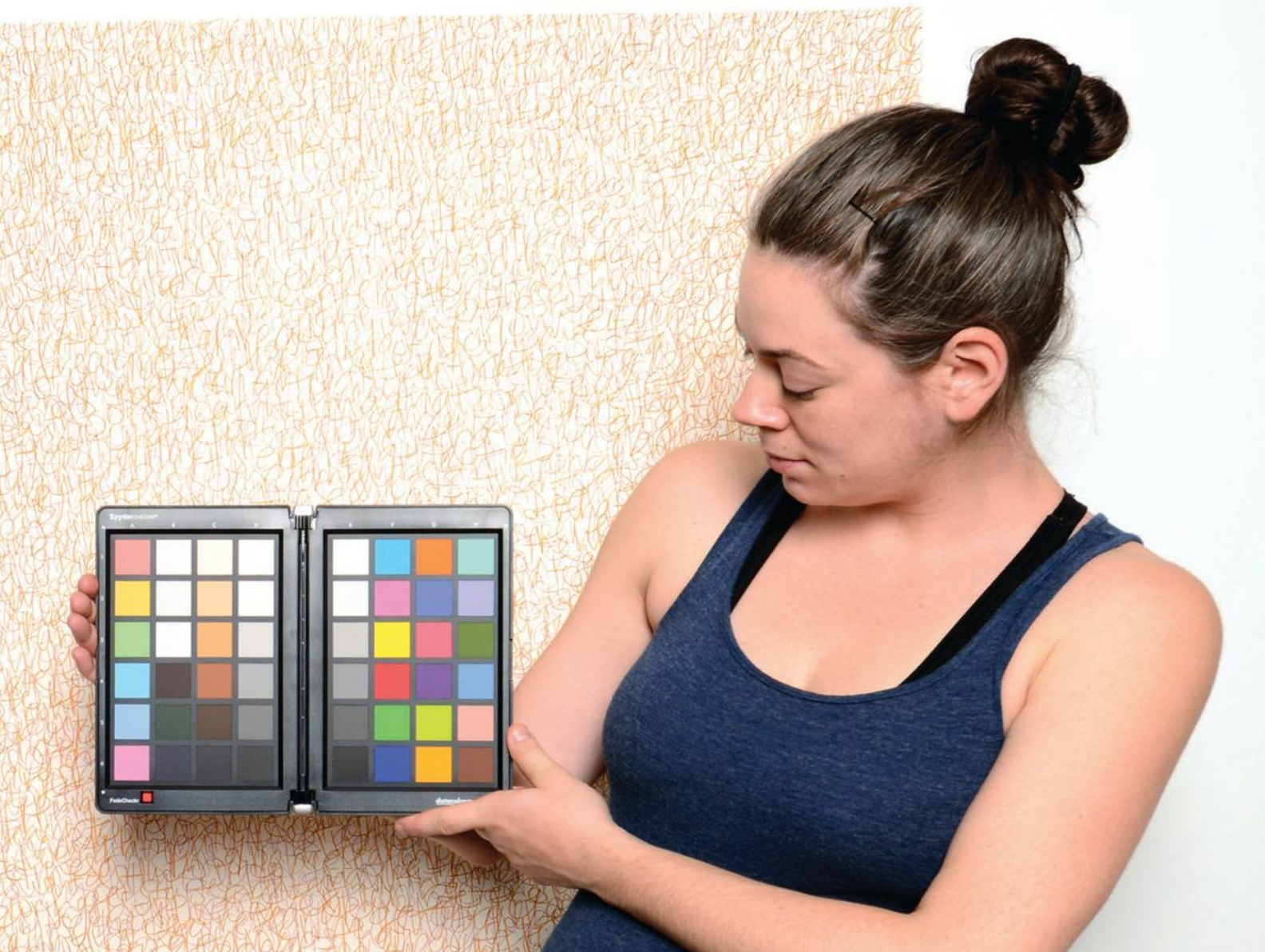


Philodendron

Oil on canvas · 21.25" x 18.5" (framed) · 2019

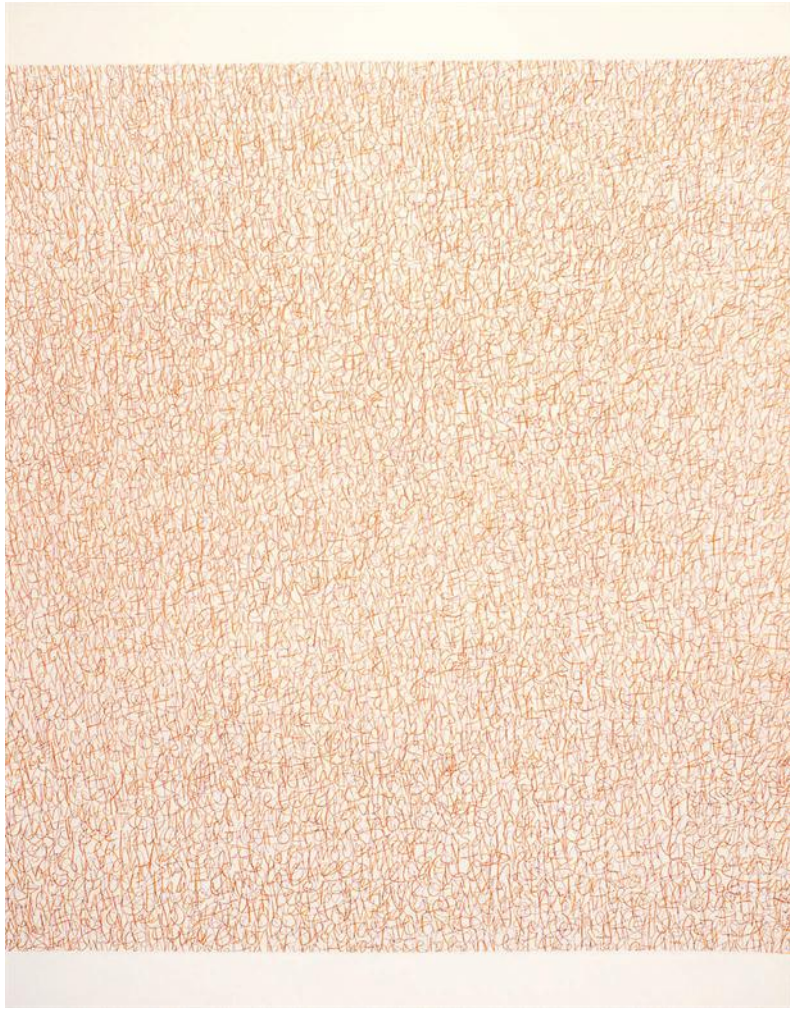
MARY NEGRO

@negromary

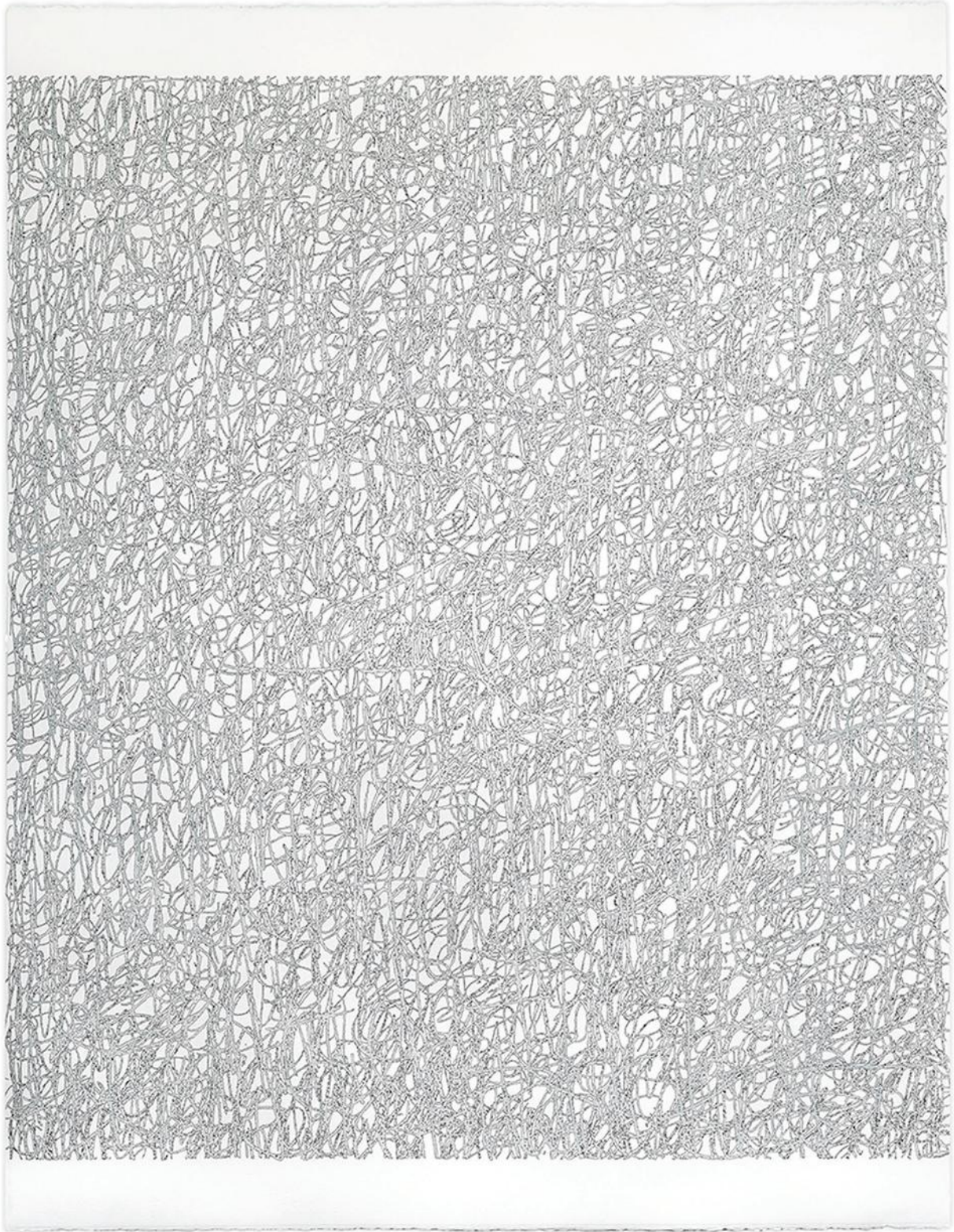


I make mixed media drawings and collages with materials including glass, newspaper, pens, and pencils. Although some of my imagery is totally abstract, my subject matter typically addresses current events and my personal history. In my drawings, I use colored pencil to layer streams of handwritten text across the paper, and then I contour the sentences with ink. This process disables the viewer's ability to fully read the text. Instead the audience is presented with a thick web of gestural marks that only hint at narrative. The text itself is developed in a manner similar to writing in a journal—it is stream of consciousness writing that continues until the image is complete. With these processes, I am trying to visualize a sense of overwhelm, frustration, or tension, while simultaneously evoking contemporary issues related to censorship, transparency, memory, and record-keeping.





Stream of Consciousness (detail below)
Ink and pencil on paper · 52" x 40" · 2018



Degrade

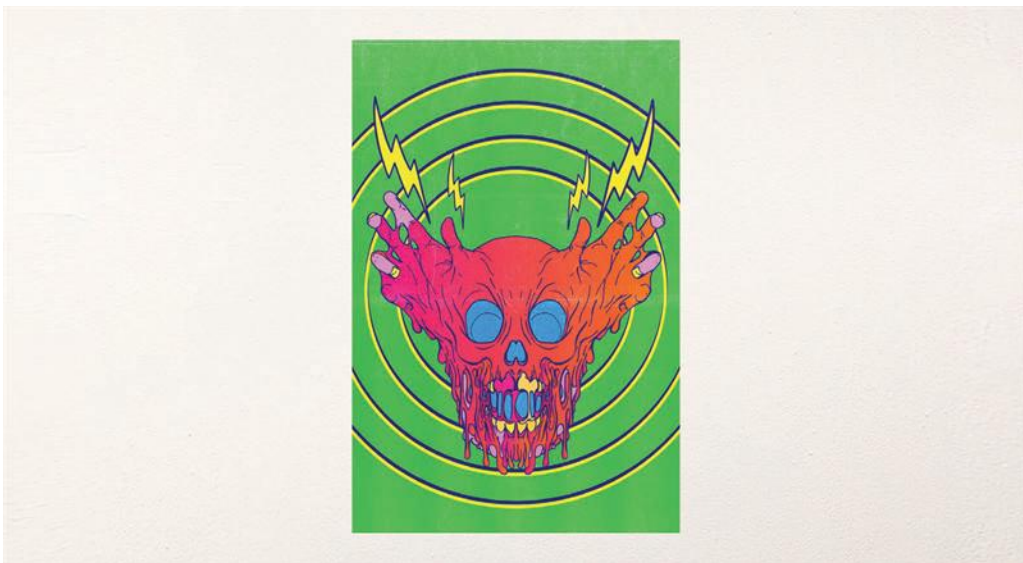
Ink and pencil on paper · 52" x 40" · 2017

CHRISTOPHER DILLEN PHELPS

@dillen_danger_



With this piece I wanted to give an exaggerated, graphic conveyance of the brain-on-fire feeling/effect when an artist is unleashing what has been in their head to the medium of their choosing. I imagined synapse occurring like fire roaring down a pathway in the artist brain. Neuro Network a flame.



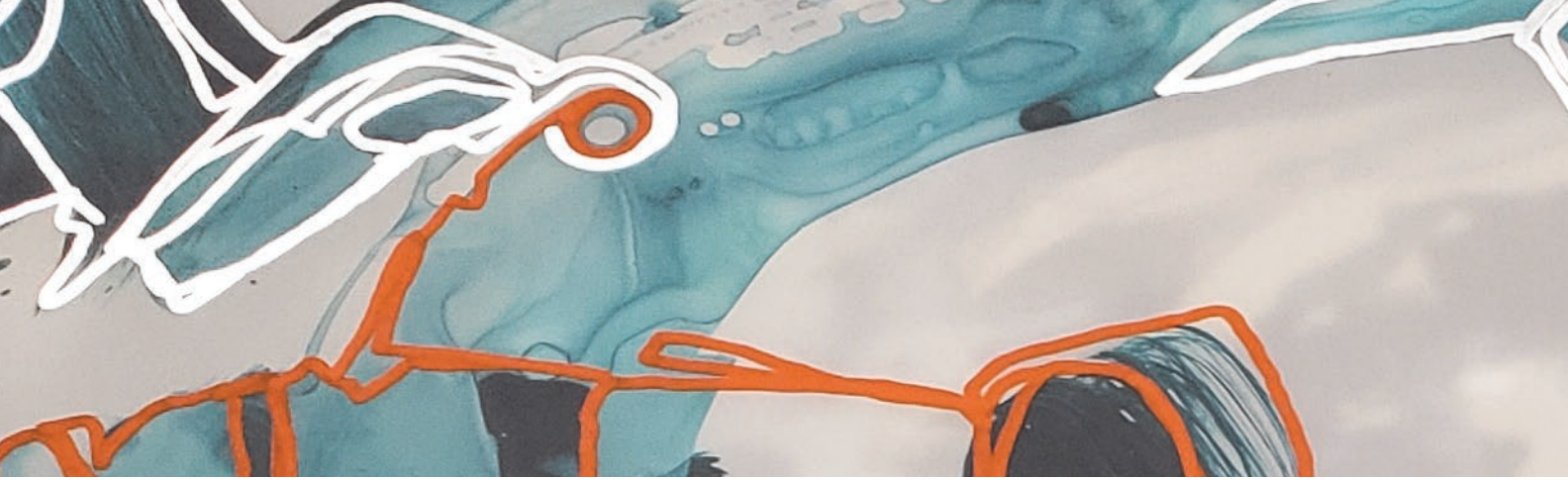


Tether Excise

Digital print · 18" x 24" · 2019



Tether Excise (detail)




ABOUT THE HEWITT GALLERY OF FINE ART

The Hewitt Gallery of Art, located in the main esplanade and adjacent Black and White galleries, is a laboratory for and an extension of the pedagogy of the Art and Art History Department. In addition, it is an alternative exhibition space for contemporary art of emerging, mid-career, and established artists displaying a wide variety of media and styles. The Gallery provides opportunities for art majors and minors to gain first-hand experience in exhibiting their capstone and junior work, for students to curate and organize shows in conjunction with the Gallery Director and for faculty and alumni to present current work to the community.

Hallie Cohen | *Director of the Hewitt Gallery of Art*







JESSICA DALRYMPLE · JOHN FISK · NATALIE FISK
ABIGAIL GROFF · KRISTEN HASKELL · MELISSA JOHNSON
SUZY KOPF · MARY NEGRO · CHRISTOPHER DILLEN PHELPS



Gowanus Swim Society Art Collective

SYNAPSES

August 19-October 30, 2019



THE HEWITT GALLERY OF ART 221 E. 71st St. · New York, NY 10021
art@mmm.edu · www.mmm.edu · Gallery is open 7 days a week, 9AM-10PM