

The drawings in this show are portraits executed in ink and nupastel on backed mulberry washi and drawings executed in metalpoint of pinecones, crab shells, and other structures produced by living things.

The portraits were started during the first few months of the COVID-19 lockdown. They are a response to experiencing relationships, COVID-19, the final year of the Trump presidency, and social turmoil during an isolating lockdown primarily through abusive algorithms designed to maximize my engagement and susceptibility to marketers.

Each subject is shown in at similar moment—looking away from phones or computers to make eye contact with the viewer. The individuals are shown alone. Everything else in the room, including objects obscuring portions of the subjects, is omitted. However, in each drawing there is still the illusion of unpictured space just beyond the edge of palpability.

The metalpoint drawings show pinecones, crab shells, and other structures produced by living organisms collected from the ground, drawn life-size against large expanses of white paper. One cone is drawn in the middle of opening as it dries. It was collected from the base of the world's largest Sitka spruce, nearly 18' around and more than 1,000 years old. Another from a 16' Douglas fir of a similar age. One from the redwood across the street from my apartment. The silver and copper used to create the drawings looks similar to graphite, but will tarnish and oxidize as time passes, so that in six months to a year the silver will appear as a brown sepia and the copper as green.

The portraits and metalpoints are presented along the work of guest artist, Brandi Kruse. Kruse's photogravures on time, vulnerability, expectations and space explore the possibilities presented through absence. Together, the works read as a loose collection of collected visual-poems—attempts to wrestle connection back from a noisy void, to find a sense place in alienation, to find balance and perspective, and, perhaps most importantly, to find and value quiet.