

Focus Gallery Two: From the Back Seat, On Foot and Over Water: Patterns of Travel, Anne Allen

Anne Allen's drawings explore pattern, both natural and manmade. Her work references sources that include vines, foliage, maps, skin markings, hairnets, lace and doilies.

An evolving body of work revisits childhood trips to visit family in Oklahoma, conjuring the severe weather, dust storms, tumbleweeds and shelter belts that populated them, all viewed from the back seat of the family car. Another series consists of intimate drawings in watercolor and colored pencil on paper, based on scratches on the skin incurred during hikes while geocaching. These "Bloody Scratch Drawings" are portrait fragments, and take as their title the coordinates of the geocache site where the scratches were sustained.

Allen frequently works with an overhead projector, manipulating, distorting and layering materials to achieve her desired formal vocabulary. She has utilized installation drawing as a component in several exhibitions including On Your Mark, Opus I, Cris Worley Fine Art, Dallas (May, 2014) and in Alchemy, part of the Cell Series at the Old Jail Art Center museum in Albany, TX in spring, 2011 working in a large scale directly on the wall and across intersecting planes.

Anne Allen grew up in Fort Worth, TX, and has lived and worked in Los Angeles, CA, Portland, OR and New York's Hudson Valley before returning to Texas in 1999. Allen received her M.F.A. in metals from the State University of New York at New Paltz and her B.F.A. in painting and printmaking from the University of Texas at Austin.

Solo exhibitions include Skin Game, Lakeview Gallery, Tarrant County College NW Campus, 2013; Alchemy, The Old Jail Art Center Cell Series, February 5 – May 22, 2011; Laureate, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX, March-April, 2010, Deft Touch, Mighty Fine Arts Gallery, Dallas, TX, February-March, 2009; Openwork, Studio 832, Dallas, TX, March-May 2008; Enduring Pattern, Gallery 414, Fort Worth, Texas, 2005-06 (with Elaine Taylor), Four or Five Large Drawings, the Gallery at Rivendell, New Paltz, NY.

Group exhibitions include On Your Mark, Opus I, Cris Worley Fine Art, Dallas, May, 2014, Texas Draws II, Southwest School of Art, San Antonio, TX, March-April, 2012, Studio Visit 1-1: A Group Show of Guest and Gallery Artists, Cris Worley Fine Arts, Dallas, TX, January 7-February 11, 2011, String Theory, Connecting Lines, Art Corridor II Gallery, Tarrant County College Southeast, Arlington, TX, October 13-November 12, 2011, Methodical Markings, Artspace 111, Fort Worth, TX, May-June, 2008; The Drawing Room, Galveston Arts Center, May-June, 2008; The Office, Fort Worth Community Art

Center, 2007; Small, NRH Gallery and Big, NRH Gallery, and Schema: A Drawing Show, Carrillon Gallery, Tarrant County College South. Allen is a 2011, 2009, 2008 and 2007 finalist for the Hunting Art Prize.

Allen is currently a Public Art Project Manager with the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. A curator and arts administrator, Allen served as Director of the Arlington Museum of Art (AMA) from 2001-2007, and as Executive Director of The Old Jail Art Center in Albany, Texas, 2000.

- Ft. Worth Community Arts Center