

refrigerator poet

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ONLINE EXHIBITION

SUMMER 2023

VIAN BORCHERT, VIRGINIA CRAMER,
ELLEN GORDON, SARAH HESSINGER,
LAURA LOU LEVY, LISA NELSON RAABE

About the Exhibition

by Perri Neri, Director

Refrigerator Poetry Visual Art Archive Online Exhibition Summer 2023

The artists in this exhibition all share the organizing element of *form*. *Form* diversifies in the intricacies of color and texture and through the range of mark-making from the small expression of the wrist to full bodily motion. *Form* is the vehicle that propels their stories about place – stories that collectively are like those of the universe – movement, time, balance, and force.

Vian Borhcort dances color and form across watercolor paper with ease, flexibility, and spontaneity. There is a playfulness side to this work. The delicate and luminous way the artist paints feels more like a memory that has slipped through her gestures; a feeling manifested into the form of birds.

Abstract painter Virginia Cramer uses color as a way of manipulating form to create a sense of place, particularly spaces that house “the female experience and a deep love the natural world.” Nourishing domestic space, exterior spaces, and psychological spaces are renewed through an engagement with color. Abstract shapes escape the flatness to which they have been confined. "My pomegranates," Cramer explains, "explore internal space through the use of color, composition, and texture, inviting multiple interpretations of an ancient symbol and concepts related to individuality."

The colors and patterns in Ellen Gordon’s paintings are rollercoaster rhythms of fences, grids, and fractured geometries – a kind of mapping. The artist guides us along a journey of a personal narrative through landscaped layers of abstraction and portraiture. Playful and speculative, the rhythms remain determinedly open-ended and essentially borderless. An un-plotted story with unbounded possibilities.

Sarah Hessinger's brushwork is characterized by a swift and confident touch that draws inspiration from nature. Rhythmic lines curve from one edge to another, evoking a sense of curiosity and introspection. They disappear and resurface as if in relentless pursuit of answers to profound questions: is something that is lost in a better place? Will it reappear? Should we look for it? Disappearing takes on a complex and mysterious form, animated with deeper meaning, inviting contemplation on the concept of rejuvenation.

Laura Lou Levy is an artist who keeps her audience on an edge of recognition. The intersections, boundaries, and thresholds that occur in her work imbue the viewer with the psychology of 'place' where the energies or expectations of change and transactions are palpable. Levy's compelling work titled *Shadow, Beit HaShemesh*, is named for a place where shadows are cast, "...onto the tiled floor of the courtyard I circle endlessly with my younger sister, as she fades into Early Onset Alzheimer's." (*Laura Lou Levy*)

Lisa Nelson Raabe's multi-media work are highly articulated compositions that force the eye to take its time as it journeys across their surfaces. Raabe's stitch of the needle creates the form that holds the tension between past and present, between pattern and gesture, between mind and matter. *Fields of Change 1.1* and *Fields of Change 6*, trap and transform an idea. Raabe turns discarded things, things that no one cares about, into a conceptual act of storing time.

"Our own life has to be our message."— Thich Nhat Hanh

The work of these six extraordinary artists share similar elevation of the human spirit through the freedom of form, material, and invention. After diving into the curatorial process, I came up for air and with greater appreciation, recognizing the healing powers of works of art. I believe more than ever in the self-created narrative and the wisdom of the life story. Thank you to all the artists in this exhibition. I am grateful to know you and to share your art so that we all can conspire to create together in the sunlight.

Happy Summer with love and cosmic optimism always,

Perri Neri
Director of Refrigerator Poetry Visual Art Archive



Vian Borchert

Birdie, 2022

Mixed media on archival watercolor paper
12 x 9 inches



Vian Borchert

Roaming Rooster

2023

Watercolor & mixed media on archival watercolor paper

12 x 9 inches



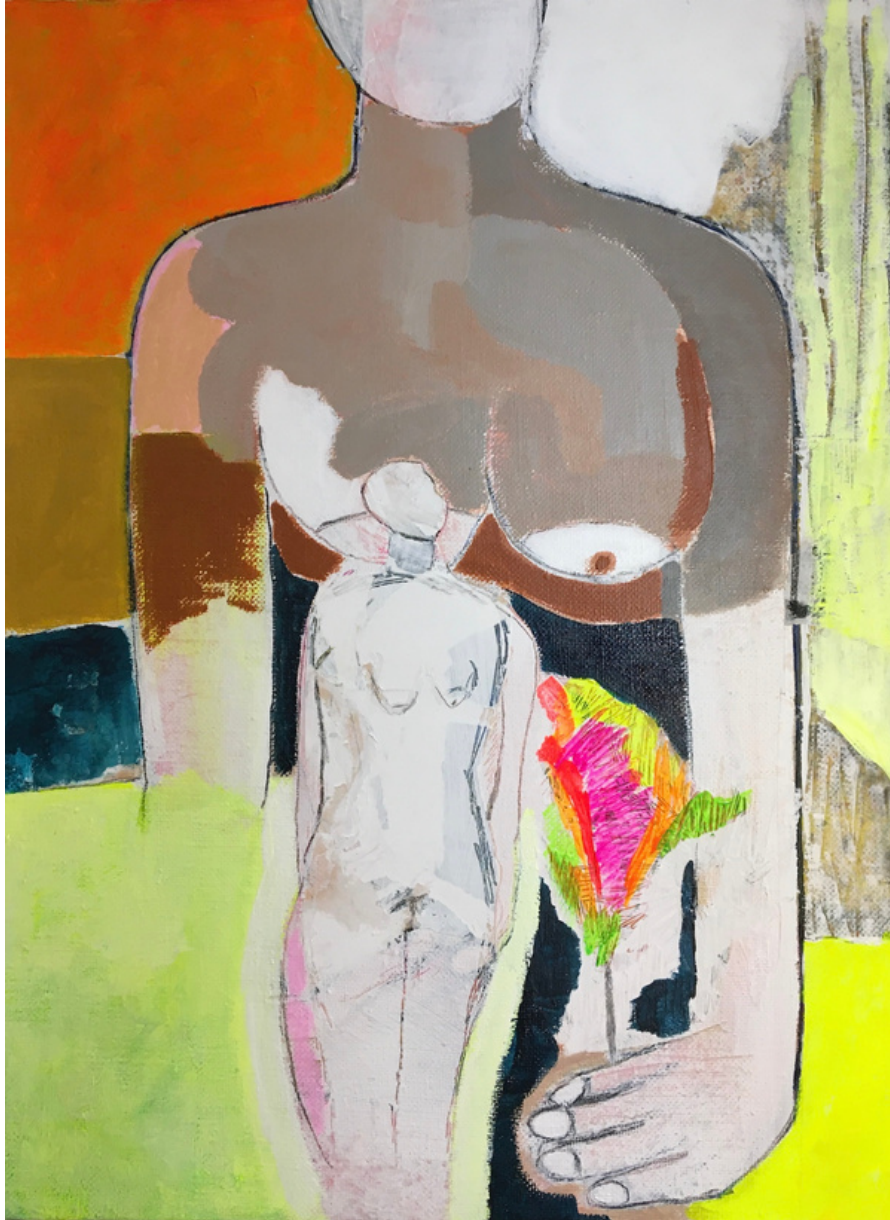
Virginia Cramer

A Conversation

2023

Mixed media on cardboard

22 x 32 inches



Virginia Cramer

*A Gift,
2022*

*Mixed media on linen
24 x 18 inches*



Virginia Cramer

Pomegranate 4

2023

Oil pigment stick and charcoal on watercolor board

30 x 40 inches



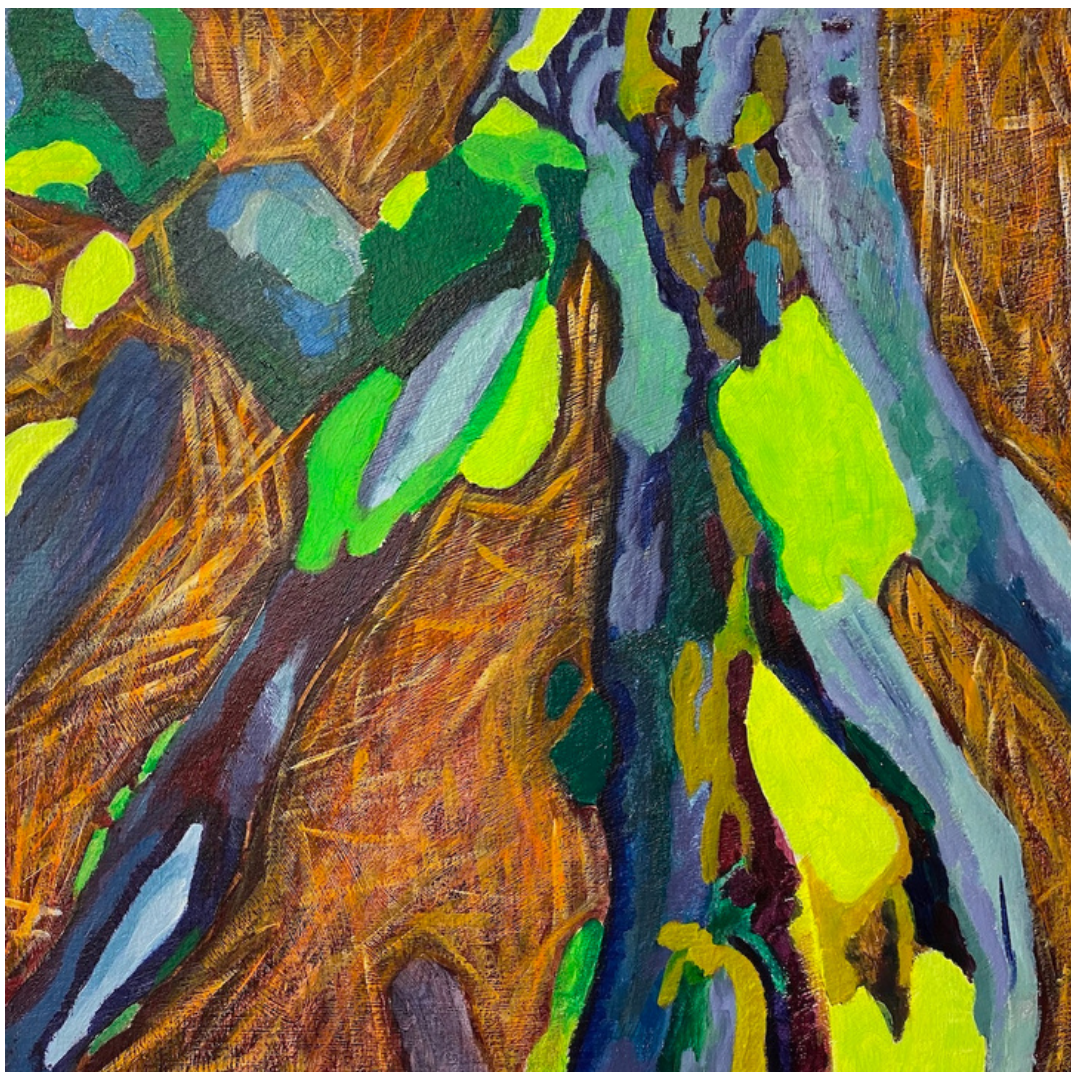
Virginia Cramer

Pomegranate 2

2023

Oil pigment and charcoal on watercolor

30 x 40 inches



Virginia Cramer

Sacred Ground 1: Roots and Rocks

2022

Acrylic on watercolor board

12 x 12 inchew



Ellen Gordon

Vortex 3

2022

Oil on d'arches watercolor paper

23 x 30 inches



Ellen Gordon

Ribbons in the Sky

2022

Oil on d'arches watercolor paper

23 x 30 inches



Ellen Gordon

Quad 4

2022

Acrylic on canvas

(four 20 x 20 inch panels)

40 x 40 total dimensions



Sarah Hessinger

Dreamstates

2022

Acrylic on canvas

22 x 28 inches



Sarah Hessinger

Traveling Through

2023

Acrylic on canvas

14 x 11 inches



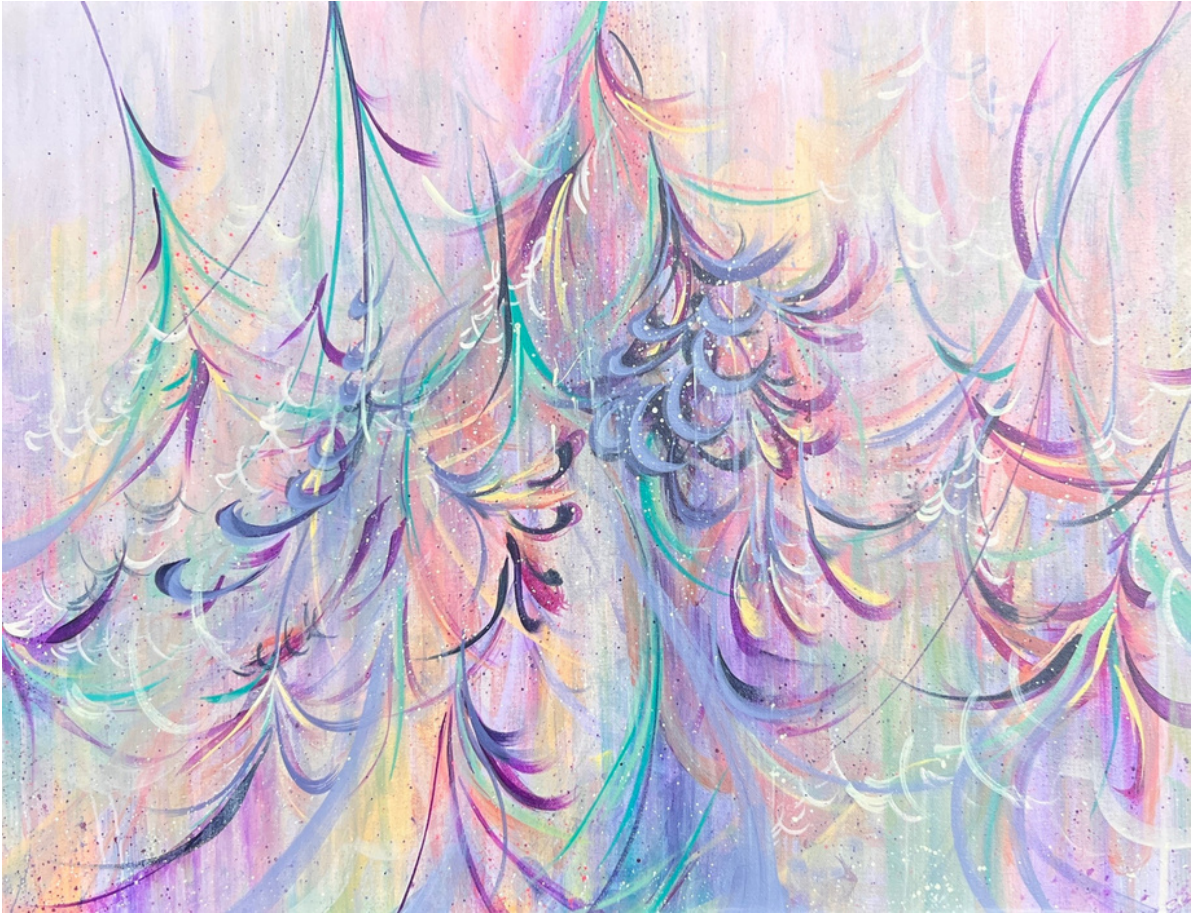
Sarah Hessinger

Tethered

2020

Acrylic on canvas

36 x 40 inches



Sarah Hessinger

Jungle Chorus

2023

Acrylic on canvas

22 x 28 inches



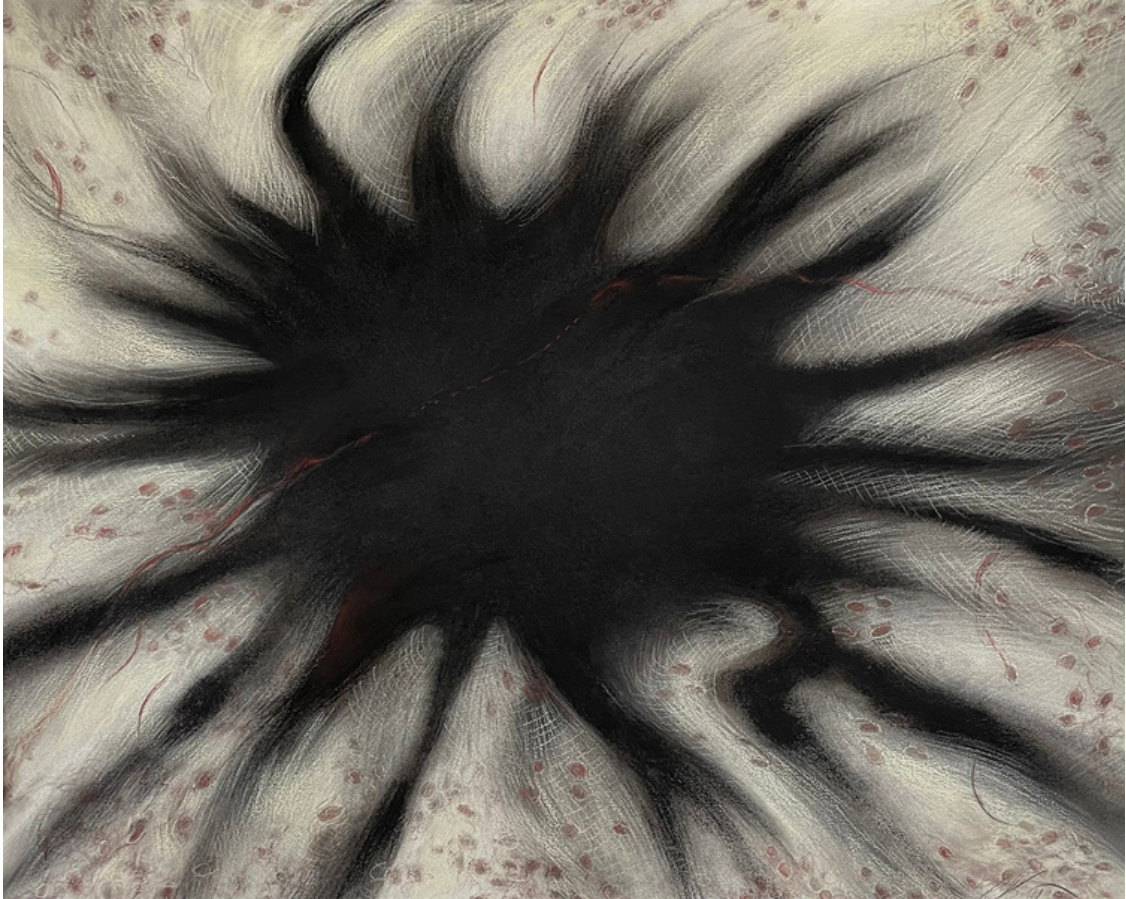
Sarah Hessinger

Ancient Voices

2022

Acrylic on canvas

30 x 40 inches



Laura Lou Levy

Shadow, Beit HaShemesh

2023

Charcoal, conte & pastel on paper

24 x 30 inches



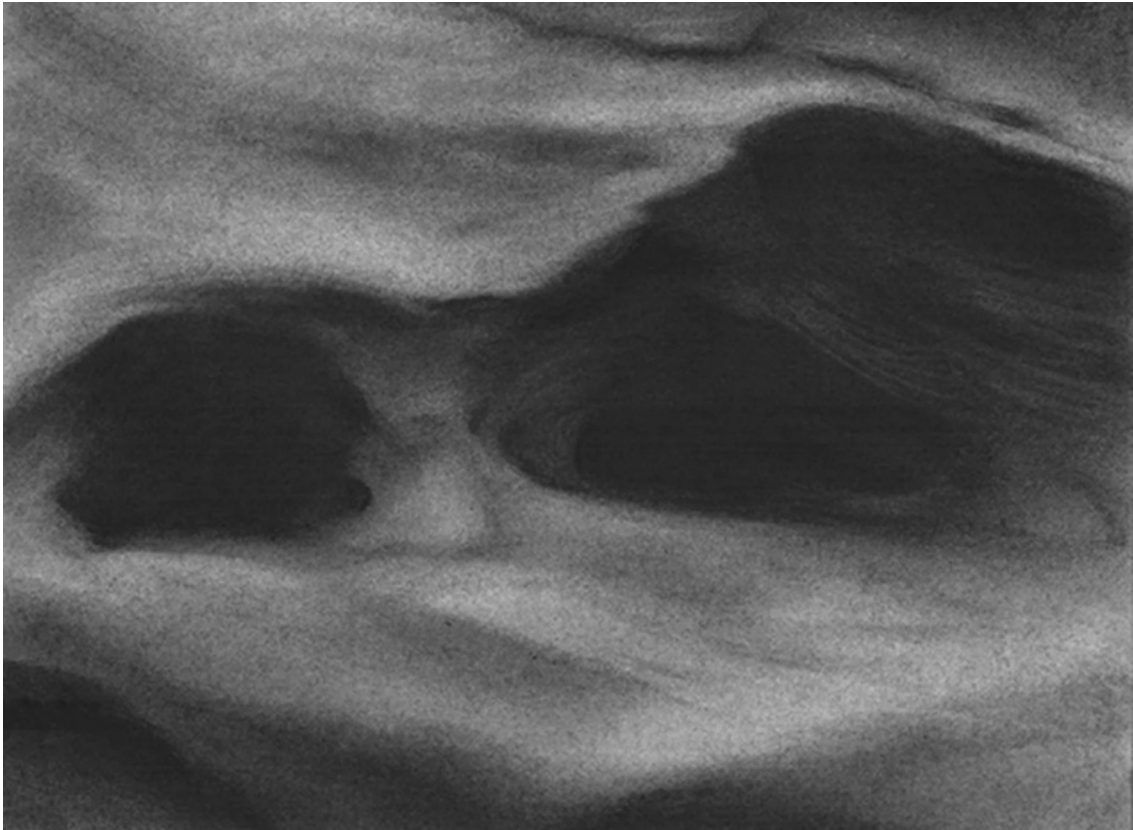
Laura Lou Levy

Wave, light

2021

Charcoal on paper

11 x 14 inches



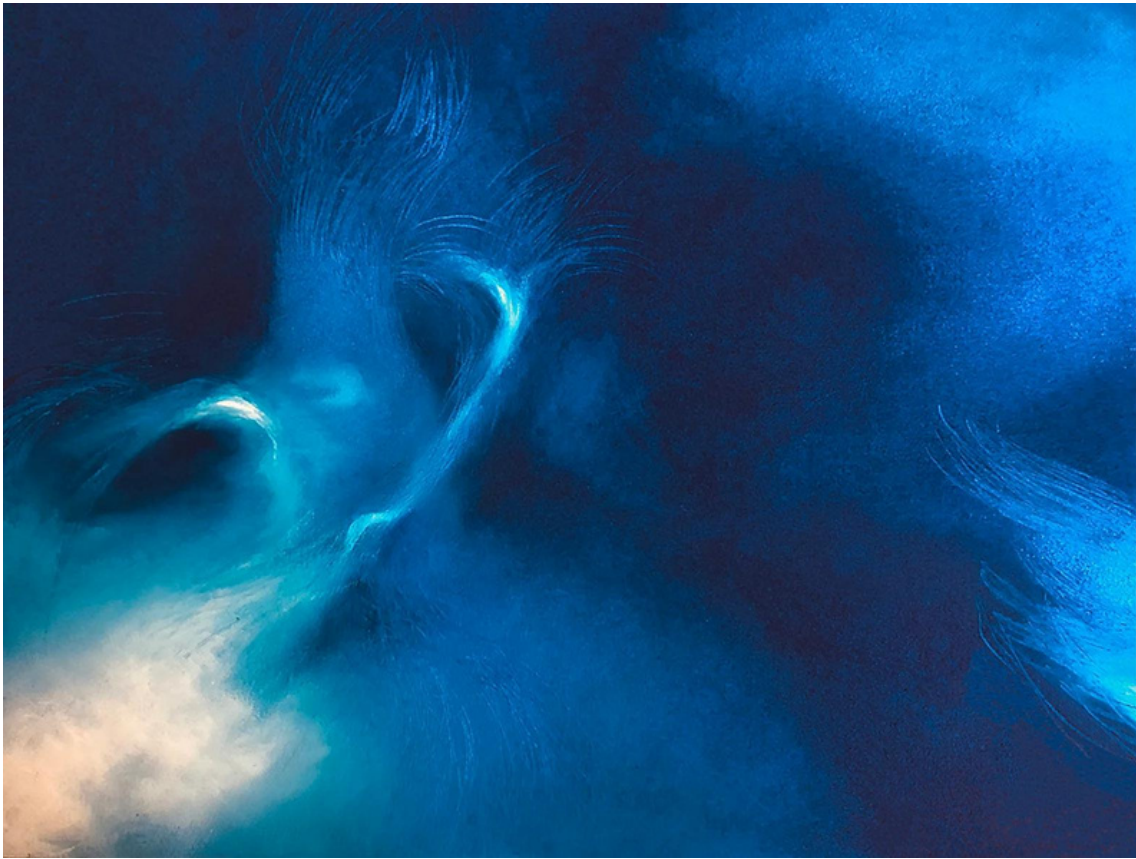
Laura Lou Levy

Red River Gorge Series: Gaze

2017

Charcoal on paper

7 x 9 inches



Laura Lou Levy

Cloud Series: Rush
2021

Oil stick and oil pastel on Arches oil paper
12 x 16 inches



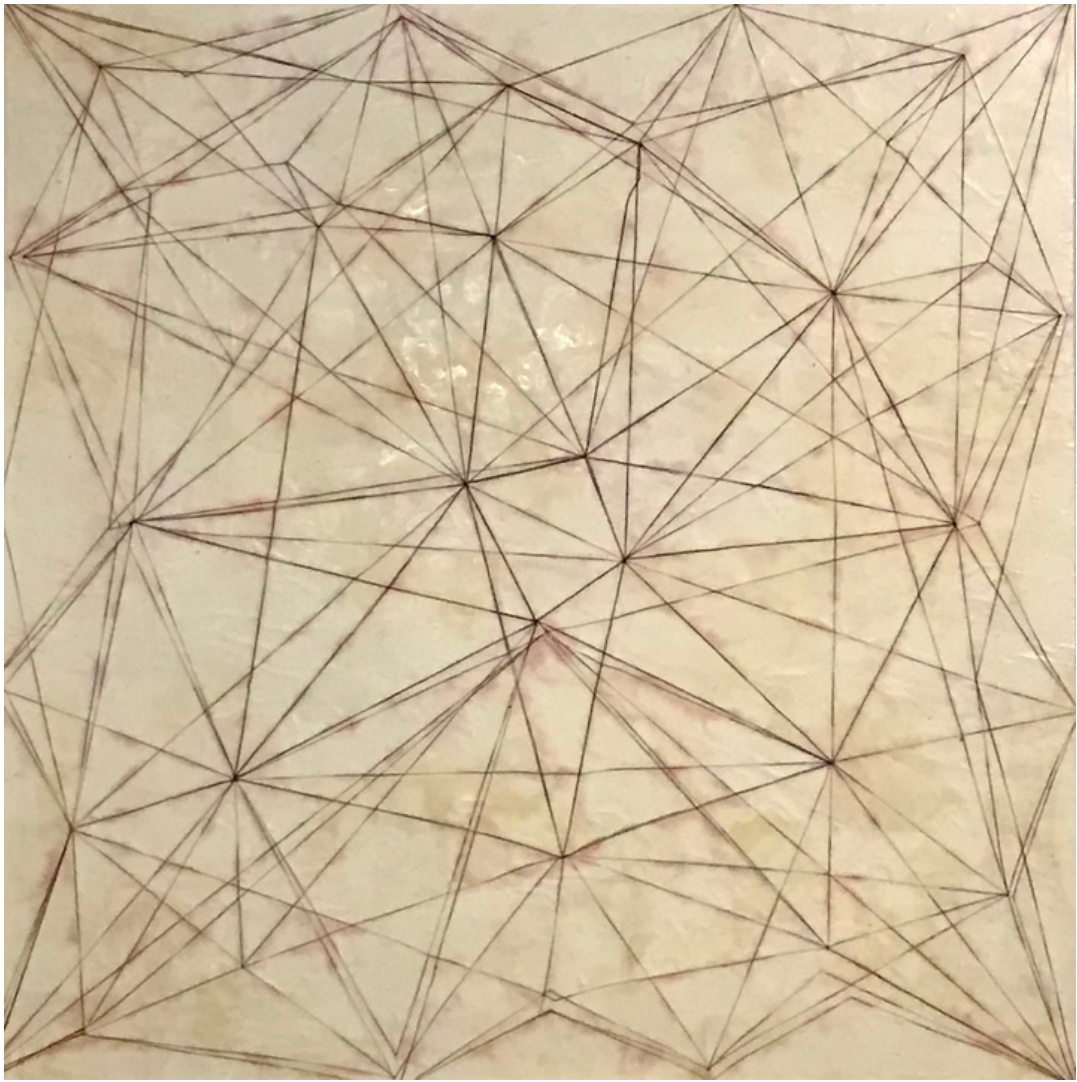
Laura Lou Levy

Cloud Series: Cloudbank

2021

Oil stick and oil pastel on Arches oil paper

9 x 9 inches



Lisa Nelson Raabe

Don't Rock the Boat

2022

Thread on Kozo paper on panel, acrylic

36 x 36 inches



Lisa Nelson Raabe

Fields of Change 1.1

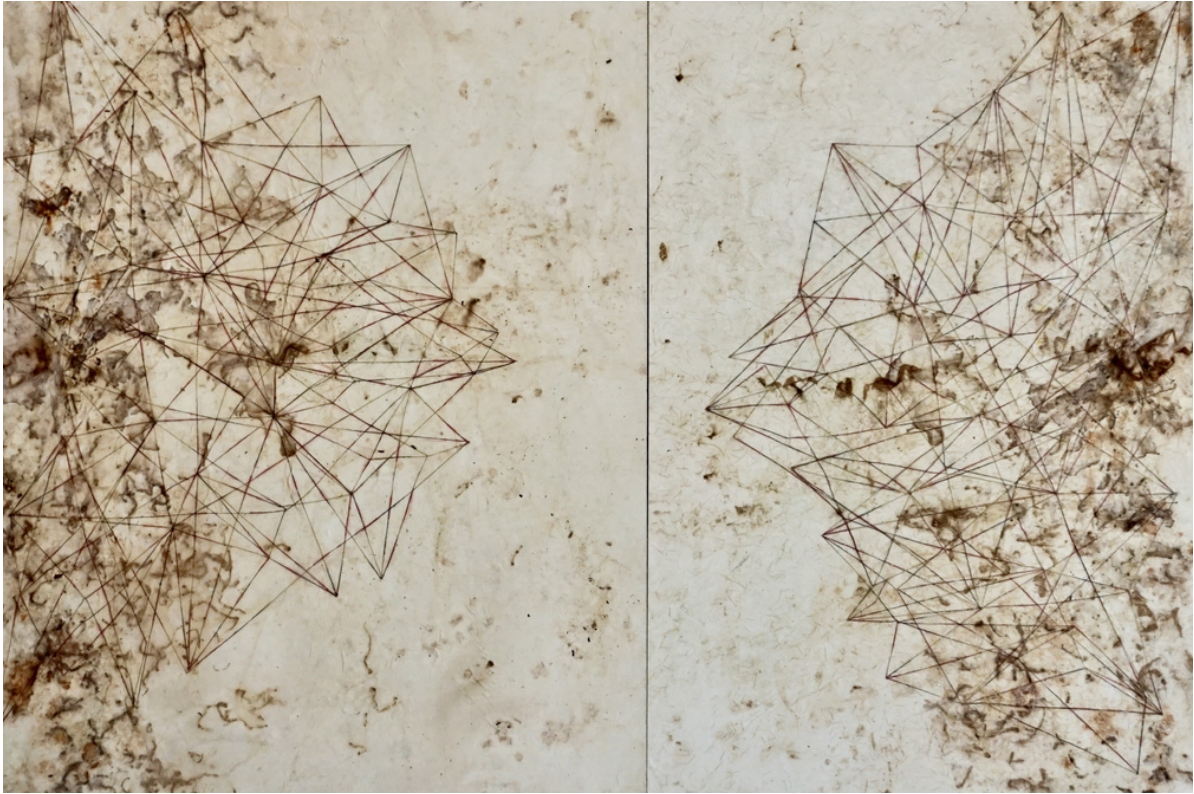
Tape, studio detritus
22 x 22 inches



Lisa Nelson Raabe

Fields of Change 6

Duck tape, fabric, studio detritus
22 x 22 inches



Lisa Nelson Raabe

Hear, Hear

Eco dyed Kozo with thread drawing,
acrylic on two panels
30 x 44 inches



Lisa Nelson Raabe

Silver Linig

Patina on Unrym with thread drawing, acrylic
61 x 36 inches

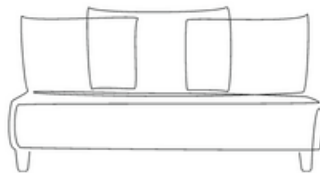
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NYC



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the under-recognized and under-represented
the betwixt-and-between**

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