



KENISE BARNES FINE ART

MARGOT GLASS

STATEMENT

The idealization of nature in ornament across cultures is a source of fascination to me, and my work explores this tension between symmetry and pattern within the natural and unnatural forms of plants in nature and design. This relationship of how we see and seek to alter nature to suit our aesthetic desires is what draws me to decorative arts traditions for inspiration as much as to painting and drawing. A central theme in my work is the exploration of ephemerality, focusing primarily on weeds, 'waste plants', and other plants generally considered to be undesirable to highlight their beauty in all of their imperfection and asymmetry as we navigate the disrupted landscape that we find ourselves in today. I find my subjects sprouting through cracks in the sidewalks and in the margins of public spaces and forest borders on hikes and walks. In my drawings of grasses and clover, I am interested in the transcendent power of natural forms to shift from taxonomic specificity in detailed drawing to a more meditative visual experience, through repetition of negative space, shape, and line.

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