



MARGOT GLASS

Statement: *Bugs in the Barn*

I am interested in the intersection of nature and art and design, and my influences come from these areas. A central theme in my work is the exploration of ephemerality, and the fragility of seasonal plants is a source of fascination to me for this reason. Their delicacy and the urgency I feel to observe them before they disintegrate inspires me. I prefer to draw grasses, weeds and other plants considered to be mundane or undesirable, to discover the hidden beauty in overlooked natural subjects, and elevate them through close inspection.

I draw with 14-Karat gold and graphite not only for the delicacy of line the metal point provides, but also for the allure of using semiprecious and precious metals as a drawing material. I also use metallic pigmented inks which capture the light in different ways. Working on a dark ground allows the gleam and luster and delicate reflective silver and gold properties of the metallic medium to present as high tones against the black ground rather than the more expected dark gray associated with metal on light paper. I am interested in the tradition of using nature as idealized ornament in art and design while seeking to observe and represent these plants as accurately as possible in all their irregularity and imperfection. The metallic lines enhance the decorative qualities of the filigree patterns formed by the seed heads, leaf veining and wings of my subjects.

I have always loved drawing insects because of their gemlike quality. I have a collection of bugs which I often refer to for inspiration. Their wings, legs and delicate forms are fascinating to me for their exquisite detail. Their general status as undesirable or unremarkable creatures aligns with the other botanical subjects and themes I pursue in my work.

Considering the drawing itself as a discrete object interest me, and my compositions are tightly cropped to bring the subject as close to the edge of the picture plane as possible. Rendering this subject matter through drawing allows me to commit what I see to memory in a way that is not sufficient through mere observation, and for that reason, art making is an essential practice for me.