



SARAH MOREJOHN

STATEMENT

My fascination with non-linear patterns in nature drives my work. Through drawing I consider how our relationship to nature is mediated both by our objective understanding and our subjective imagining of it. I think of how wonder connects us to the world.

After experiencing a historic blizzard, I began making drawings based on snow crystals and their intricate structures. Not all snowflakes are symmetrical. They are smushed together or broken apart by the time they fall to the earth. The increasing global temperatures are also affecting the structures, or lack thereof, of snow. Perfect snow crystals are rare and becoming rarer. I learned this as I grappled with the grief of having chronic illnesses, and snow crystals became a metaphor for the body. A perfectly functioning body is equally rare.

Thinking of these symbolic connections between nature, the body, and climate change I draw partial six-fold symmetries. Sharp angles soften and wiggle, cell-like shapes minnow along as branches and flowers become a part of the flotsam disconnected from the earth. Drawn line by line the figurative snow crystals become interlaced with each other and their environment, jumbling towards their future transformations. My drawing process is intuitive and organic. For this reason, I include drips and spills, and run with flaws and mistakes by collaging pieces of drawings together as a way of dealing with the ever-changing uncertainties of life.

Imagining different registers of time—the beginning bloom of snow crystals within clouds, their fall in a storm, and the aftermath—I gather up microscopic and macroscopic relationships in my drawings. I imagine an ecology of how water, cells, bacteria, and plants effect and depend on each other across scales—from a cellular level to, say, a fruiting body. Intuitively drawing, or really doodling, is simultaneously a way of being lost and arriving. The rhythms, repetitions, and artifacts of the making are integral to the experience. Time and patience morph into observations like that of a scientist, explorer, or astronomer. Complex patterns and relationships in the work give rise to the unexpected, catalyzing the viewer into a state of wonder by displaying a myriad of possibilities.

The intricacies of my drawings are entranced by imperfect patterns in nature that envision a way of connecting to wonder, summoning a path forward to curiosity.