

BEILI LIU

Beili Liu is well known for her intricate large-scale installations. For the Courtyard Gallery, Liu offers a glimpse into another side of her practice, presenting several of her lesser-seen but equally captivating two-dimensional compositions. Like much of her sculptural work, Liu's drawings are built around process; however, the immediacy of working on a smaller scale allows the artist to work more intuitively, providing an opportunity for playful experimentation.

Whereas in many of her installations Liu places emphasis on the symbolism of handmade components, the artist purposely removes her hand in her Wind Drawings. Using an air compressor to guide rivulets of sumi ink across the surface of birch panels, Liu shapes organic compositions that are deliberate, yet serendipitously lithe and unrestrained. The marks capture the movement of the "wind," evoking a sense of natural rhythm as the ink pools and extends into plant-like tendrils. In a way, these are time-based works: the ink records the duration of contact between the air and the surface of the panel. The drawings take on an ethereal quality by incorporating intangible forces like air and time as part of the artist's medium.

Liu similarly explores alternative forms of mark making in her other compositions, manipulating various materials into elegant visual rhythms as she plays with line and space. In her Petoskey series, tightly packed rolls of soft cotton stained by sumi ink take on a surprising variety of textures to resemble the mottled surface of the fossil stone after which the works are titled. It is this element of surprise and transformation that interests Liu, underscoring her deep-rooted appreciation of materiality.

While the drawings share a visual sensibility with much of Liu's sculpture, as well as a focus on process, the looser structure of her two-dimensional works provides a balance against the rigors of her carefully planned installations. This sense of equilibrium presents itself in the work, surfacing naturally as Liu's investigations draw her into lovely and unexpected places.

TJ Hunt is an artist and writer working in Austin, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010 with degrees in Studio Art and Art History and is currently Assistant Editor for the arts magazine Pastelegram.

BEILI LIU:PROCESS DRAWINGS

Beili Liu was born and raised in China. Liu received her M.F.A. from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2003 and joined the faculty in the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Austin in 2008. Liu received a Distinction Award at the Kaunas Biennial, Lithuania, the Walter and Gina Ducloux Fellowship in 2011 and a University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award in 2012. Her work has been exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. See her work at www.beililiu.com.

GALLERY HRS.

9 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily

EXHIBITION

Sep. 12, 2013- Feb. 7, 2014

LOCATION

The Courtyard Gallery at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center- 1900 University Avenue, Austin, TX

The gallery is located on the 2nd level of the Conference Center adjacent to the courtyard. A campus map can be found online at: www.utexas.edu/maps/main/buildings/att.html

For more information about this event and The Courtyard Gallery, visit the College of Fine Arts Website: www.utexas.edu/finearts/aah/about/facilities/galleries/courtyard-gallery

The Courtyard Gallery at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center is a marvelous opportunity for the Department of Art and Art History to share and celebrate the works of art created by its renowned faculty and alumni with guests and visitors to the center, and the campus community. The Courtyard Gallery is part of an exciting and inspiring time for art on The University of Texas campus, and we are proud and delighted to be contributors and partners.

Douglas Dempster
DEAN, COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



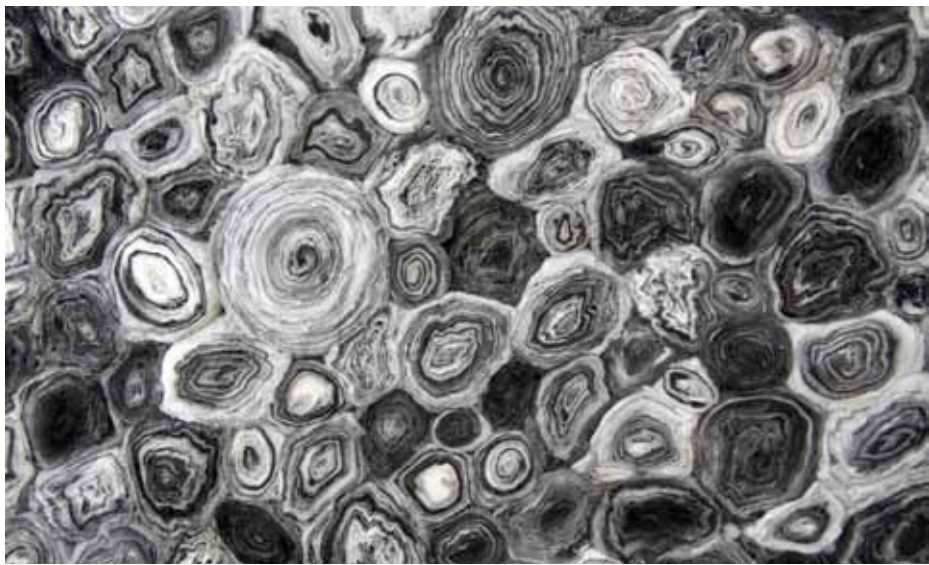
EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AND CONFERENCE CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



BEILI LIU: PROCESS DRAWINGS

WIND DRAWINGS / ARRAY #1 (detail) | 2013
sumi ink on birch panel



PETOSKEY (detail)
2010 | cotton (recycled), sumi ink on birch panel,
set of 4



PETOSKEY
2010 | cotton (recycled), sumi ink on birch panel,
set of 4



WIND DRAWINGS/ ARRAY #1
2013 | sumi ink on birch panel