

I find inspiration in forms and patterns that occur in nature at any scale, such as those found in microscope slides of clustered plant cells, or the striking beauty of layered mineral deposits exposed by erosion. Instances of seemingly arbitrary organization are both the cause and effect of our constantly shifting world. Repetition is the key to pattern formation and can transform a flat surface into dynamic visual texture. It is rewarding to watch chaos become ordered through repetition both in nature and in my art.

In addition to patterns and textures, I collect much of my dyestuff from nature. Plants, insects, and lichens have been used to dye cloth for centuries before the development of synthetic chemical dyes. Recent efforts to return to more environmentally friendly and sustainable dye practices have shifted focus back to natural dyes. Instead of buying dye extract, I begin with the raw materials and go through the extensive process of sorting, cutting, drying, soaking, and boiling required to yield the dye I use to make my pieces. After sampling and detailed note taking, I begin dyeing my fabric, often multiple times with different concentrations of dye in order to achieve a range of shades. To produce consistent and predictable results I repeat the dye production and sampling process multiple times before starting the final piece. It is necessary to understand the chemical processes taking place between dyes, mordants, and fibers to attain quality, lasting results.

My most recent series of works examine how forgotten memories resurface in dreams and interfere with our perception of the past. The vivid dreams I have had all my life have resulted in layers of memories that take place in certain settings, creating an overlapping effect of true and false details in my mind. These are my attempts to define the lines between real and fabricated memories within my subconscious. By using dye materials that reference specific locations and times in my life, I mentally revisit places that no longer exist as I remember them, and reflect on how these times in my life shaped who I am today.