

Bio

Emily Church grew up in Louisville, Kentucky where the abundant parks and wild natural beauty influenced her artwork from an early age. She attended Washington University in St. Louis, where she received a BFA in sculpture. Emily works with a wide range of media including painting, drawing, and bookmaking; her current focus is in two-dimension. In late 2004, Emily traveled through France, Italy, and Portugal on a grant, making her home base a residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris. Residencies in Europe in 2002 and 2004, as well as at the Vermont Studio Center in 2007 have allowed Emily's work to grow and change, becoming more enhanced by experiences beyond the familiar day to day. Emily currently resides and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Artist Statement

Inspiration for my work is drawn from nature, focusing on the concept of strata. Strata are physical layers of the earth as well as theoretical layers of time evoked as a place evolves. This decision to make work about nature coincides with public concerns. The loss of natural spaces, the squandering of natural resources and the global warming debate are at the forefront of today's environmental issues. My focus on nature is also personal. Nature, and in particular, urban forests and parks have been a central part of my life and have had a strong influence on my artwork. My paintings and drawings utilize poetic devices to interpret the human body's relationship to nature. Sometimes the body is included within the landscape of the painting, and sometimes it is present only in part, or in title. Themes that are central to the work include body systems, spiritually relevant places, and the continuous cycle of destruction and rejuvenation of the planet.