

# FROM GROUND TO GARDEN

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## INTRODUCTION

The pandemic has permanently changed my approach to research, art making and the way I interact with my surroundings. Work and play have become enmeshed through the need to work from home. This project summarizes a year-long investigation including drawing, gardening, and my acceptance of a new artistic environment.

Throughout the winter I employed numerous artistic methods of collecting and utilizing natural materials to incorporate into drawings. The research setting was at a derelict farm outside of Nacogdoches, Tx. I primarily focused my research on seeded annuals and established perennials to experiment with as art material and inspiration.



## OBJECTIVES

- Integrate my art practice with available inspiration and material during stay at home orders
- Experiment with plant life as nonobjective art content
- Discover best practices for utilizing spent plant materials

## PROCESS

My process shifted between the art studio and the garden, applying both traditional and digital methods. Each method began with the various flowers I grew over the summer. These flowers were deadheaded, the process by which spent flower heads are removed to encourage new flower or foliage growth, in early fall.

The collected plant material was physically pressed onto drawing paper. I photographed the floral stains and digitally altered them to accentuate their form and color (figure 4). The resulting images can be exhibited through print, projection or computer screen.

The remnants of the pressed flowers were dried and photographed in various compositions. These arrangements were digitally altered into high contrast black and white photographs. I then projected the individual photographs onto 51"x 72" sheets of 100% cotton paper. As an homage to the original natural materials, I drew the projected dried petals and flower heads in charcoal (figures 1, 2, 3).

This year I am expanding my experiments and research to further integrate the garden into my work. I have chosen to plant Zinnias, Amaranth and Safflower for their dye properties and am adding multiple rose bushes considering the success of the initial flower pressing. Each addition to the garden is now in service to art making and vice versa.

## OUTCOMES



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

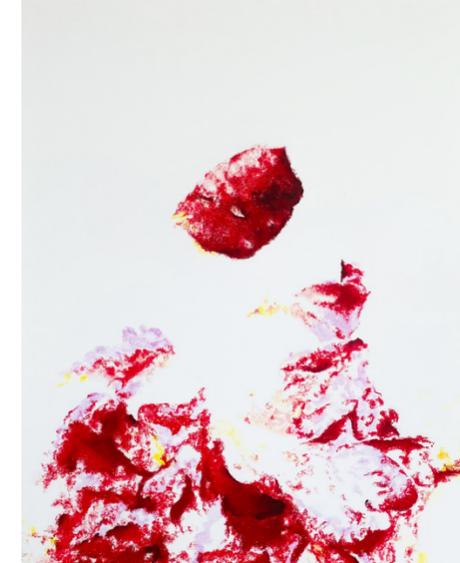


Figure 5

Figure 1: *Then We Set the Desk on Fire*, charcoal on mounted paper, 72" x 48" x 1.5", 2021

Figure 2: *Furrow*, charcoal on mounted paper, 72" x 48" x 1.5", 2021

Figure 3: *Headspace*, charcoal on mounted paper, 72" x 48" x 1.5", 2021

Figure 4: *Deadhead*, roses and zinnias, digital image, 2020

Figure 5: *Just Give Me Some Space*, oil and chalk pastel on mounted paper, 38" x 30" x 1.5", 2021

