

Debra Claffey

New Boston, NH
debraclaffey.com
debra@debraclaffey.com

Statement

My work for Shifts centers around employing technique to affect content, and using encaustic to accentuate shifts in perception. These pieces are made with encaustic, oil paint, and graphite on paper. The encaustic sits on the panel with a raised edge and satin surface while the oil paint sinks into the paper as a soft matte surface

The graphite dances between the two, delineating edges and ridges. I use this difference in texture to play with form, edge, and pattern. And, like Rembrandt's etching monoprints, which varied by the amount of ink he wiped off the plate, the darks and sense of atmosphere in these works vary with the amount of oil paint I remove from the encaustic. The content consists of meditations on our relationship, as humans, with natural life, particularly plants, specifically, the incredible beauty and intelligence of plants and biological systems like photosynthesis, fractal patterns, and chemical communications between species.

Bio

Debra Claffey is a visual artist who uses encaustic, oil, and mixed media in her work. Raised in Connecticut, educated in Massachusetts, she now lives and works in New Boston, New Hampshire. She holds a BFA in Painting from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Tufts University and an Associate's Degree in Horticultural Technology from the University of New Hampshire. Claffey's work has won several awards and, in 2011, received an Artist Entrepreneurial Grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Raised in Connecticut and educated in Massachusetts, Debra holds a BFA in Painting from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Tufts University and an Associate's Degree in Horticultural Technology from the University of New Hampshire. Claffey has been exhibiting widely for more than thirty years and her work has won several awards. She received a 2011 Artist Entrepreneurial Grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Claffey writes a blog, Making Something out of Nothing, and enjoys curating exhibitions. Claffey is a Past-President of New England Wax, and currently sits on the Board of the NH Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art.



Debra Claffey, Shift: From Pattern to Edge,
24x24, 2017