

Catherine Weber

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Statement

The Lichen Series is an exploration of the fascinatingly diverse and resilient organisms known as lichen. Found on every continent in every environmental setting, lichen survives in most scenarios with the exception of severe pollution. Its unique existence, unlike any other living organisms is actually two organisms dependent on each other to live. It is this beautiful and determined nature that I most want to emulate and explore in this series, in which I use cross sections of fallen trees as my substrate.

These paintings are inspired by a variety of richly diverse specimens and exemplify the many forms that lichen takes. From the lightest and brittle flaky forms to the rock-like bracken types, lichens are a wondrous life form. For me, the shift in this work came from painting pictures of lichens on panels to making dimensional sculpture-like lichen on wood that replicates where lichen often live, and challenging the viewer to discern whether these works are actual living lichens or wax replicas. This series is influenced by seeing The Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants at Harvard's Museum of Natural History, which were created before other materials were available and allowed botany students to study flowers in bloom year-round.

Bio

Catherine Weber is a mixed media artist who works with encaustic, photography, paper, and textiles, predominately focusing on natural materials and subject matter. She was raised in upstate New York, Indiana, and Connecticut and now lives in central Massachusetts. She holds a BA in Communications from Emerson College and an MA in Critical and Creative Thinking from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

She has exhibited her work across the country, especially in the Northeast, including at Danforth Art/Museum in Framingham, MA, the Saco Museum of Art in Maine, Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven, CT, The Art Complex Museum in Duxbury, MA, and A Gallery in Provincetown, MA. Her work can be seen at Fountain Street Fine Art in Boston, Massachusetts.

She is past chair of the Southborough Center for the Arts in Southborough, MA and creative director of Art on the Trails, a public art and poetry program in Southborough, Massachusetts.



Catherine Weber,
Scalloped Pink Mushrooms, 22x15, 2017