



Anne Allen: Alchemy, from the Cell Series

Anne Allen takes everyday objects that have their origins in decorative craft or utilitarian use as her subjects. Lace, doilies, floral and wall patterns, hairnets and dryer sheets are some of the image sources Allen distorts, manipulates and then enlarges. The ordinary becomes the unique as she translates the intricacies of these objects utilizing materials such as charcoal, graphite, ink, prism-color and gouache.

The installation drawings, executed directly on the walls of the exhibition space, push these objects to an extraordinary scale, rendering them iconic and further emphasizing their complexity. Working very close to the surface of the wall or the paper, the making process becomes meditative as it allows for immersion in the details of the image. Drawing in this way operates like abstraction, though the result remains representational. When done in conjunction with exhibiting related works on paper, it activated the space, and injected a sense of the temporal.

Born 1960 in Seattle, WA, Allen grew up in Fort Worth, Texas. She obtained her MFA in metals from the State University in New York at New Paltz and her BFA in painting and printmaking from the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently a Public Art Project Manager with the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

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