



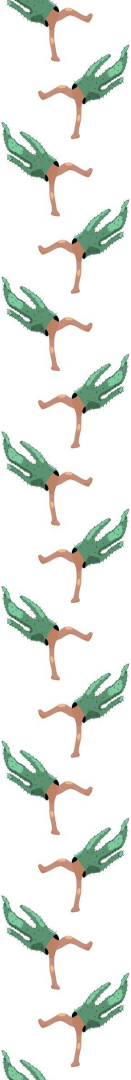
Keystones

Capstone BFA Installation Sculpture
2020

Beca Piascik

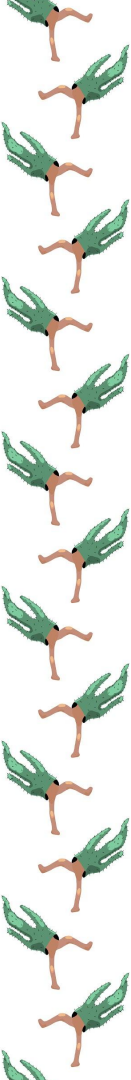


Beca Piascik's work is grounded in the significance of water, and inspired by connections between the cycles and dynamics of the core elements of nature with the root causes that link individual humans within a community. Native to upstate New York and working regularly in Southern California, Beca traverses media but finds herself at home once more in the water world of hand papermaking. Creating sculptural art through hand papermaking as a medium is incredibly dynamic and informative, enabling manipulation of the material properties of paper with intensely haptic processes.



During the time of social distancing and being quarantined at home, the postal service is an outlet for connection with our loved ones and the outside world. The USPS is a keystone of the government and societal systems that keep us running. This relates to the fact that a saguaro cactus is a keystone species for its ecosystem. The postal service acts in the same way.

Keystones 2- Covid-19 is a site specific work that conveys appreciation and gratitude to the mail carriers working in our neighborhood, and offers comfort and contemplation to my neighbors.





Keystones-2, Covid-19 is dedicated to the essential mail persons during the time of Covid-19. A representation of a Saguaro cactus which is known as a keystone species. A keystone species holds up a web of connections that makes it a crucial organism in its ecosystem. The Saguaro provides a food source and shelter for various desert animals, birds make their nests inside the cactus and their fruit is the only source of wet fruit in the Sonoran desert.

Keystones-2, Covid-19 is represented in bloom and accompanied by an egg that is covered in USPS logos and labels from mail. The egg is representative of the connection between the mailbox and the fact that eagles, the symbol of USPS, as well as other birds make their homes in these cacti.

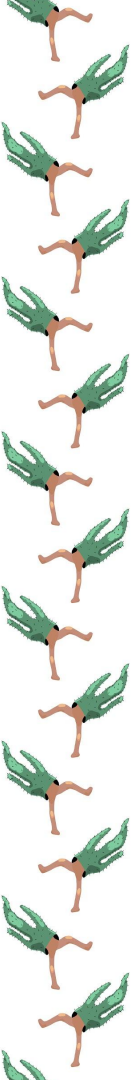






Yesterday's sacred grove has become today's biosphere reservation. Natural conglomerates of trees, and portions of planted forests, were considered separate and untouchable. The forests of Mount Kenya are held holy by its inhabitants. Priests in the Philippines practice rice ceremonies in a sacred grove. Trees are commonly made into totems due to the association with a connection between the terrestrial world and the heavens. I collect pieces of bark from the ground that ingrain their shapes in my memory as I walk past them. Relatable to the human form, the trunk of a tree is like the torso; the branches like the arms and fingers; the bark is like skin, commonly showing age in the form of wrinkles. Recognizing nature's beauty - granted, anthropomorphized beauty due to our collective perception - is a practice of wonder, appreciation, and perspective, and allows us to recognize connection.

Due to Covid-19, this work remains in progress. This piece of wood will be the centerpiece for a wall hanging piece. The piece will be made of recycled handmade paper and resemble an enlarged version of this bark. The bark will be embedded into the paper.



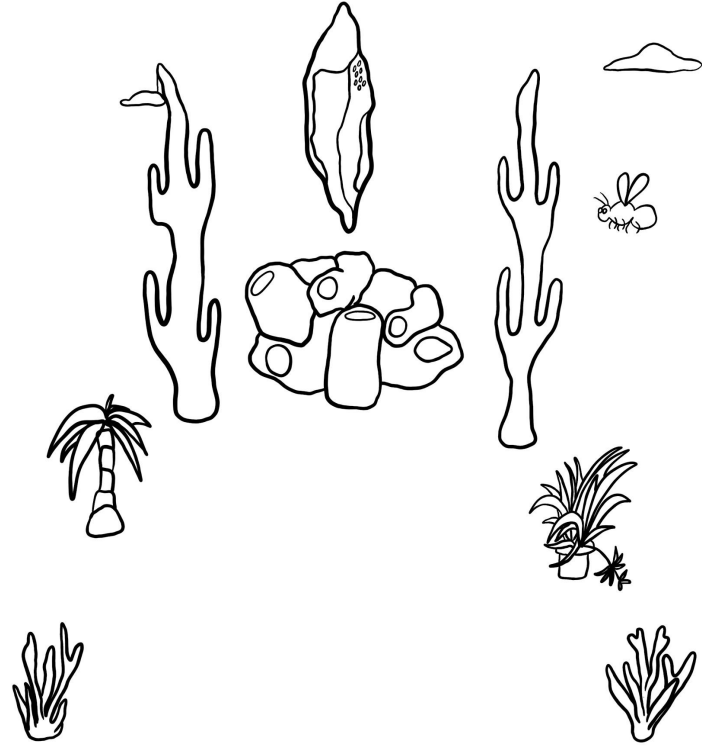


Keystones contains eight large rock formations made of handmade paper. These rocks are meant to invite a haptic interaction. Upon reaching inside the tubes, the viewer will feel an array of textural experiences. Each rock contains a different material: water, ash, soil, perhaps another's hand! Included in this image is a plan sketch of the *Keystones* installation. The installation consisted of other representations of keystone fern and fauna.

Due to Covid-19, these pieces remain in progress. The image shows completed tubes and their chicken wire skeleton as they would fit together. The entirety of the rocks will be covered in handmade paper from recycled materials.



KEYSTONES





Keystones remains an unfinished work. Covid-19 disrupted my project, along with every other part of my life. While sheltered in place at home, my family and cohort of fellow artists rallied around me. As my creative design took shape, we revamped my home art studio and built a Popup hand papermaking studio in the garage.

