

5-1-2014

Artist Statement

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Recommended Citation

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Joshua Harriman
Artist Statement
February 2, 2014

In my painting and mixed media work I am drawn to the process of change that happens in nature. Using paper cutouts and collage/decollage, I build an archeology of layers that speaks about the identity of a place. I want the viewer to recognize the weathering of infrastructure as well as organic movement within systems. My work deals with a tension between systems and nature, technology and biology, dystopia and utopia.

In my recent work I have been combining circuit diagrams with maps of the Boston area, looking at ways that technology has altered both the landscape and the ways that we experience it. Technologies used for spying, technologies used for navigation, as well the actual navigating itself all have something in common and that relationship is something I want the work to address. This has led me to readings in the area of psychogeography and systems painters like Julie Mehretu and Matthew Ritchie, as well as Carroll Dunham, Mark Bradford, and Franklin Evans. I have also begun implementing tools like Google maps and experimenting with ways that I can document my own daily travels.