


Spring 2022

Mother Water

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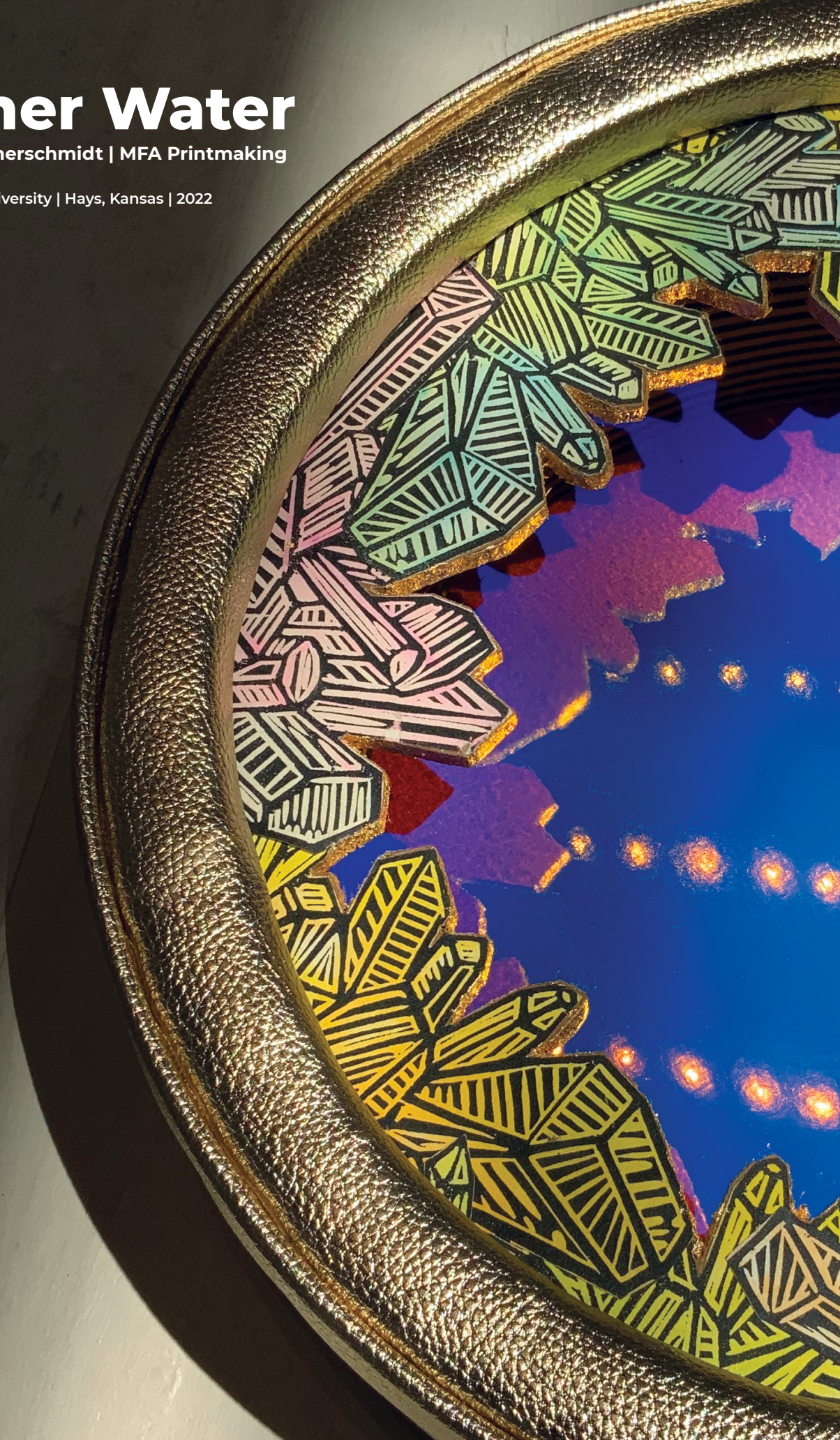
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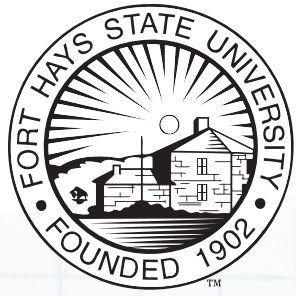
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Mother Water

Crystal J Hammerschmidt | MFA Printmaking

Fort Hays State University | Hays, Kansas | 2022





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Mother Water

Exhibited at the Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art
April 29 – May 13, 2022

Master of Fine Arts
Fort Hays State University
Hays, Kansas
2022

This catalog is submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Fine Arts.



This body of work would not have been possible without the devoted love and support of my mother. I cannot begin to express the depth of her giving and teaching which helped sculpt me into the person I am today. I also want to acknowledge the many other mothers in my life; there are so many artists, mentors, best friends, co-workers, spiritual guides, grandmothers, aunts and dedicated plant moms who have inspired me along my journey. Together you have taught me to stay curious and compassionate.

I thank you all for your guidance.

A special thank you to Miss Maddy Otter for her exceptional design skills, photography and digital magic which brought this catalog to life.

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Artist Statement

Water is life. That which nurtures, sustains and nourishes. My mother is truly my water. The one who gave me life and has supported and nurtured me through and through. While wading through the challenges and adversity of graduate school, she has been there every step of the way; and while I struggled to find what I was trying to say, I was quietly toiling over thoughts of my own fertility, maternal instincts and desire to nurture something and I began to acknowledge the mortality of my own mother.

The materials and images I combine are deeply connected to my mother. I'm driven by process based mediums such as printmaking and metal casting. This exhibition honors traditional approaches in both areas, but finds a playful marriage somewhere in between within my mixed media work. Cast iron, bronze, traditional and contemporary approaches to printed media, and an incredibly self indulgent combination of natural and synthetic fabrics come together into creative portals and plantlike forms. I create work to excite the senses with a seductive sort of mystery, a cheeky sense of humor and an extremely playful burst of colors and texture. My materials and technical skills in this body of work are the result of collaborating directly with my parents, in their shop where I also spent my formative years. My mother has owned her upholstery business for over 40 years and over time has imparted unique technical skills and tools of the trade onto me; without which this body of work never would have come to fruition. The art and design of the automotive industry has also had a direct influence on my mixed media work. I'm inspired by hot metallic colors and reflective forms of classic cars and hot rods.

Although industrial art and design may heavily influence my curation of materials and funky fabrics, nature and the cycles of life are what invigorate my concepts and pattern work. My work is inherently feminine as I embrace the earth, mother goddess, as a creator and giver of life, and inspiration. Characters, figures, and forms are meant to represent fertility and life cycles.

Like a lotus flower emerging out of the mud to blossom at the surface, this exhibition was an intentional manifestation of joy and playfulness. It all grew out of shared trauma, challenges and adversity. My intentional manifestation begins in a joyous maker's space, surrounded by plants and all of my favorite tools, colors and materials. Both my process and practice is based on repetition. I wanted my thesis exhibition to be my big creative orgasm, the ultimate self pleasuring moment, through exploiting materials and colors in an extremely seductive, sexy and fun way. As the viewer sees light and even themselves literally reflected in this work, I mean to excite the notion of self-reflection and even a manifestation of another world, another version of what we believe is reality. I've manifested something fantastical, playful and created new interactive spaces and objects which change with each viewer, their own movements and how the changing light of day interacts with my mixed media works.



Printmaking

- 4 **Sneaky Snake**
- 5 **Tenacity**
- 6 **Seed to Soil**
- 7 **Celtic Worms**
- 8 **Juicy Fruits**
- 9 **Squishy Bits**
- 10 **She My Best Friend**

Nice Try

Crystallized Series

Feasting with Friends: "Well Fed" Portfolio Exchange

Knotty Combo Series: Sun & Moon



Sneaky Snake. Color Reduction Relief Cut, 2021, 9 X 11"



Tenacity. Intaglio with Watercolor, 2021, 11 X 16"



6
Seed to Soil. Lithograph, Watercolor, Milkweed Seed, 2020-21, 18 X 21"



7
Celtic Worms. Relief Cut and Wood, 2021, 19 X 19"



Juicy Fruits. Relief Cut and Collagraph, 2021, 8 X 10"



Squishy Bits. Lithograph, 2021, 18 X 21"



She My Best Friend. Lithograph, Etching, Relief Cut, 2021, 6 X 8"





Mixed Media Soft Sculpture

- 14-15 **Leafy Green**
- 16-17 **Folk Flower**
- 18-19 **Candy Shop**
- 20-21 **Lucy**
- 22 **Emerald Sun**
- 23 **Denim on Denim: Self Portrait**
- 24-25 **Geode**
- 26 **Snake Plant Emergence**
- 27 **Green and Gold**
- 28-29 **Best of Bowie**
- 30 **Red Fungus**
- 31 **Violet Crystals**
- 32-33 **Take a Good Look**
- 34-35 **Nature of Vanity**
- 36 **Maquettes**

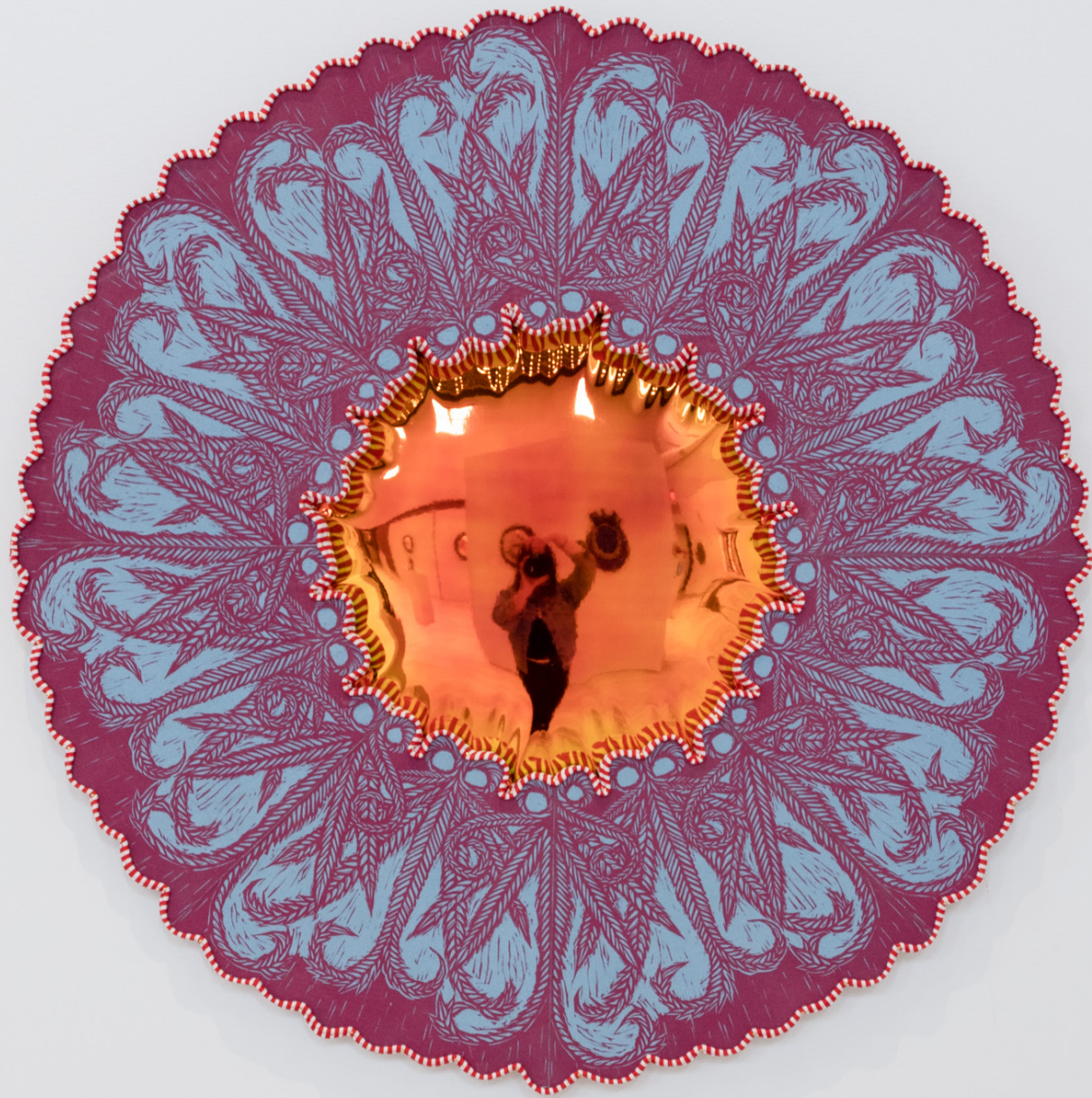


Leafy Green
 Relief Cut on Paper, Mounted on
 Wood, Mixed Media Drawing
 2021-22
 30" Diameter



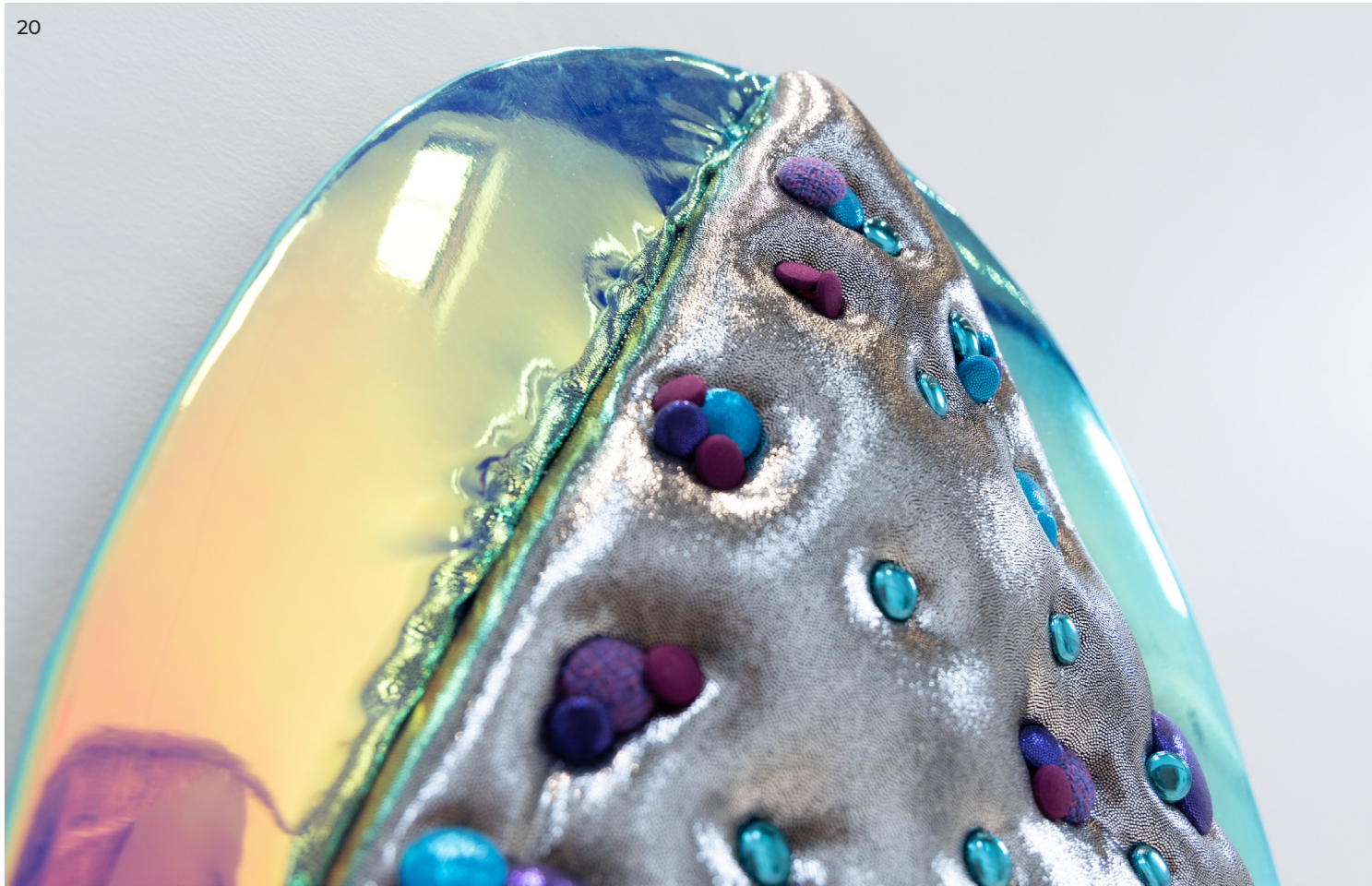


Folk Flower
Relief Cut Print on Fabric, Handmade
Printed Buttons, Cushion on Wood
2020-21
34" Diameter



Candy Shop
 Relief Print on Cotton,
 Vinyl & Wood
 2021-22
 30" Diameter





Lucy
 Vinyl, Spandex, Cotton, Wood, Foam,
 Handmade Buttons
 2022
 30 X 25 X 5"



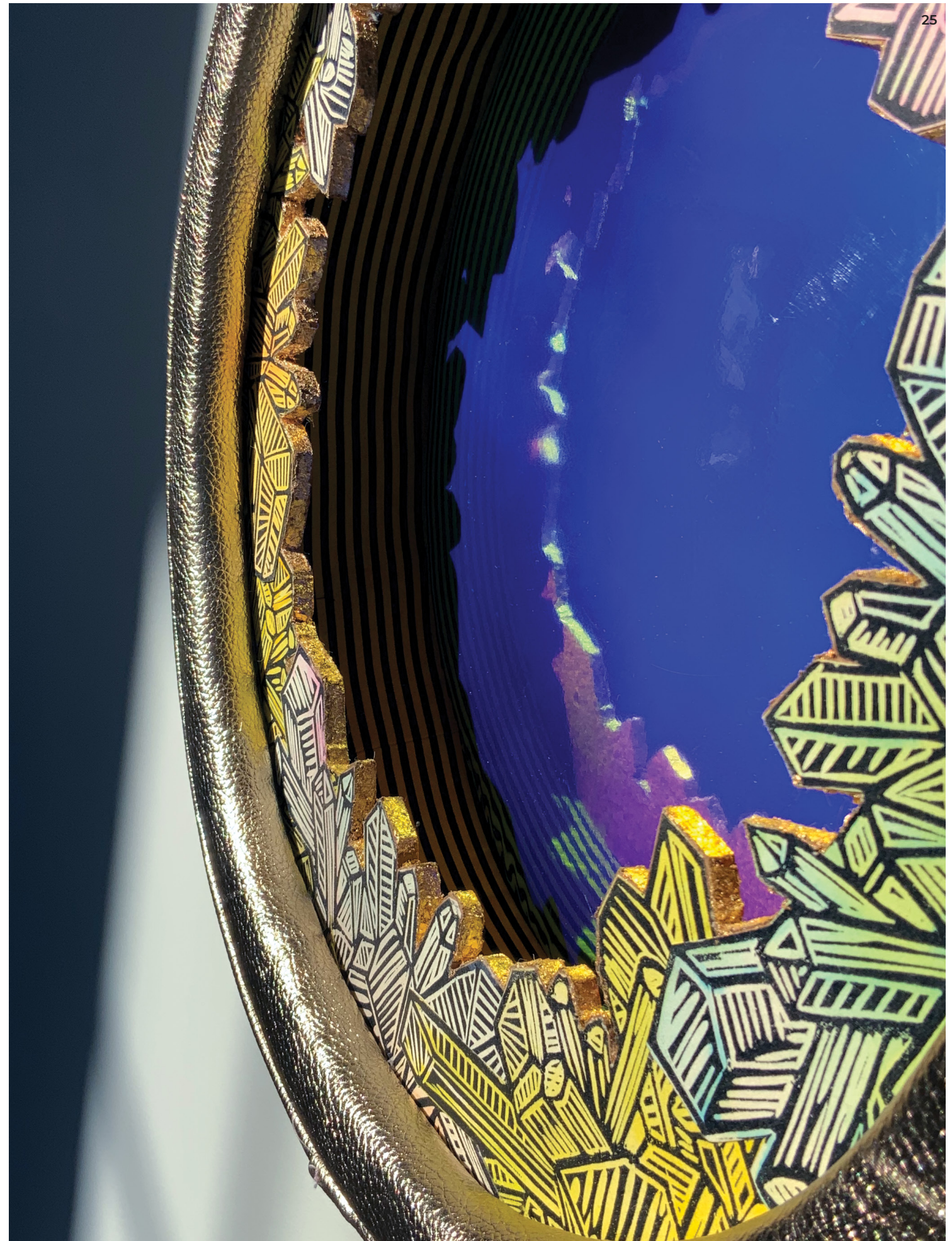
Emerald Sun
 Cotton, Relief Print, Spandex, Wood,
 Foam, Handmade Buttons
 2022
 18 X 17"



***Denim on Denim:
 A Self Portrait***
 Denim, Cotton, Glitter Fabric
 2022
 18 X 17"



Geode
 Relief Print, Watercolor, Vinyl, Cotton,
 Leafing, Wood
 2021-22
 16.5 X 16.5 X 4.5

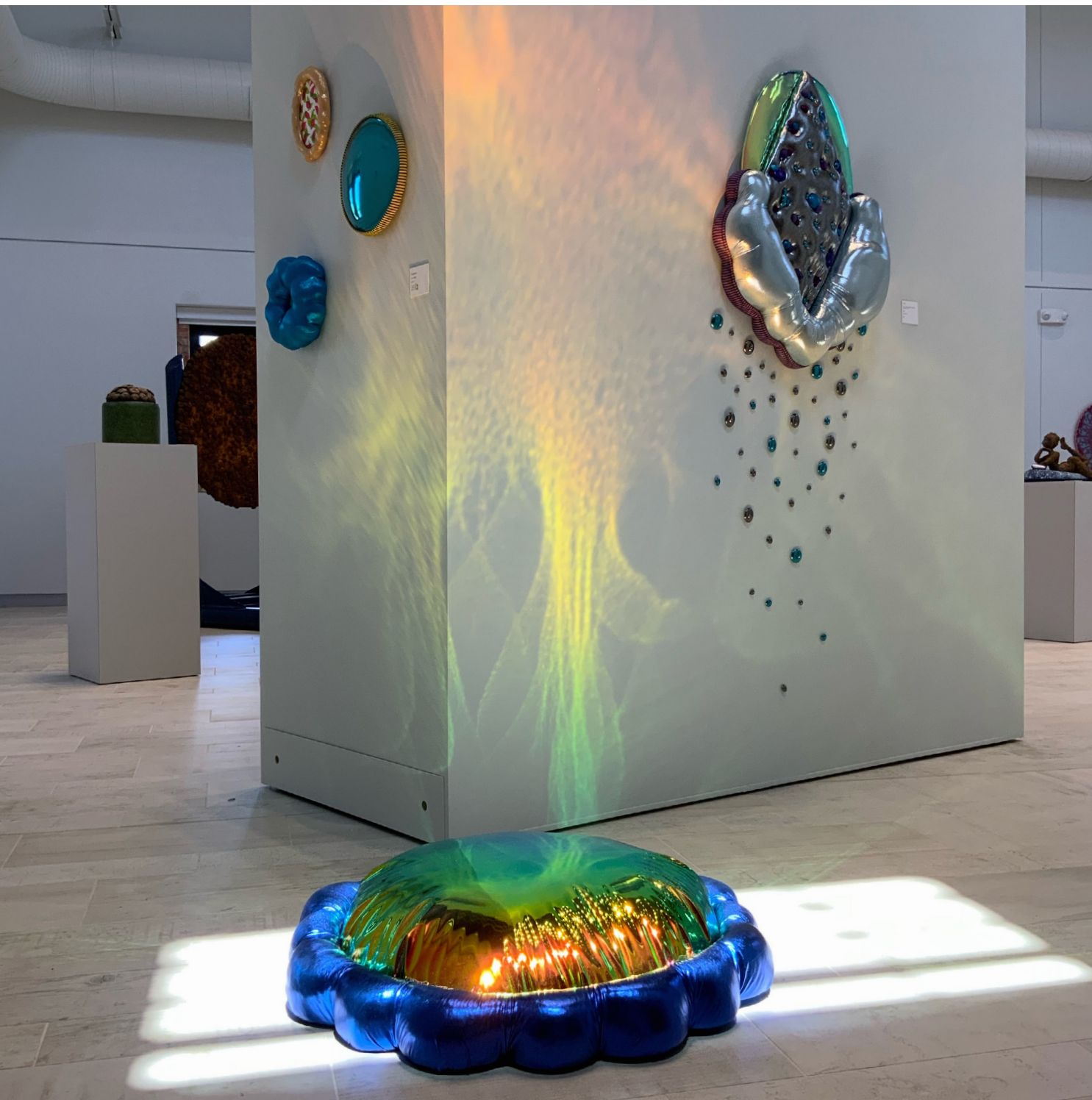




Snake Plant Emergence
 Cotton, Spandex, Relief Print,
 Upholstry Fabric
 2022
 17 X 22 X 4"



Green and Gold
 Printed Fabrics, Handmade Buttons,
 Cotton, Spandex, Wood
 2022
 17 X 17 X 3"

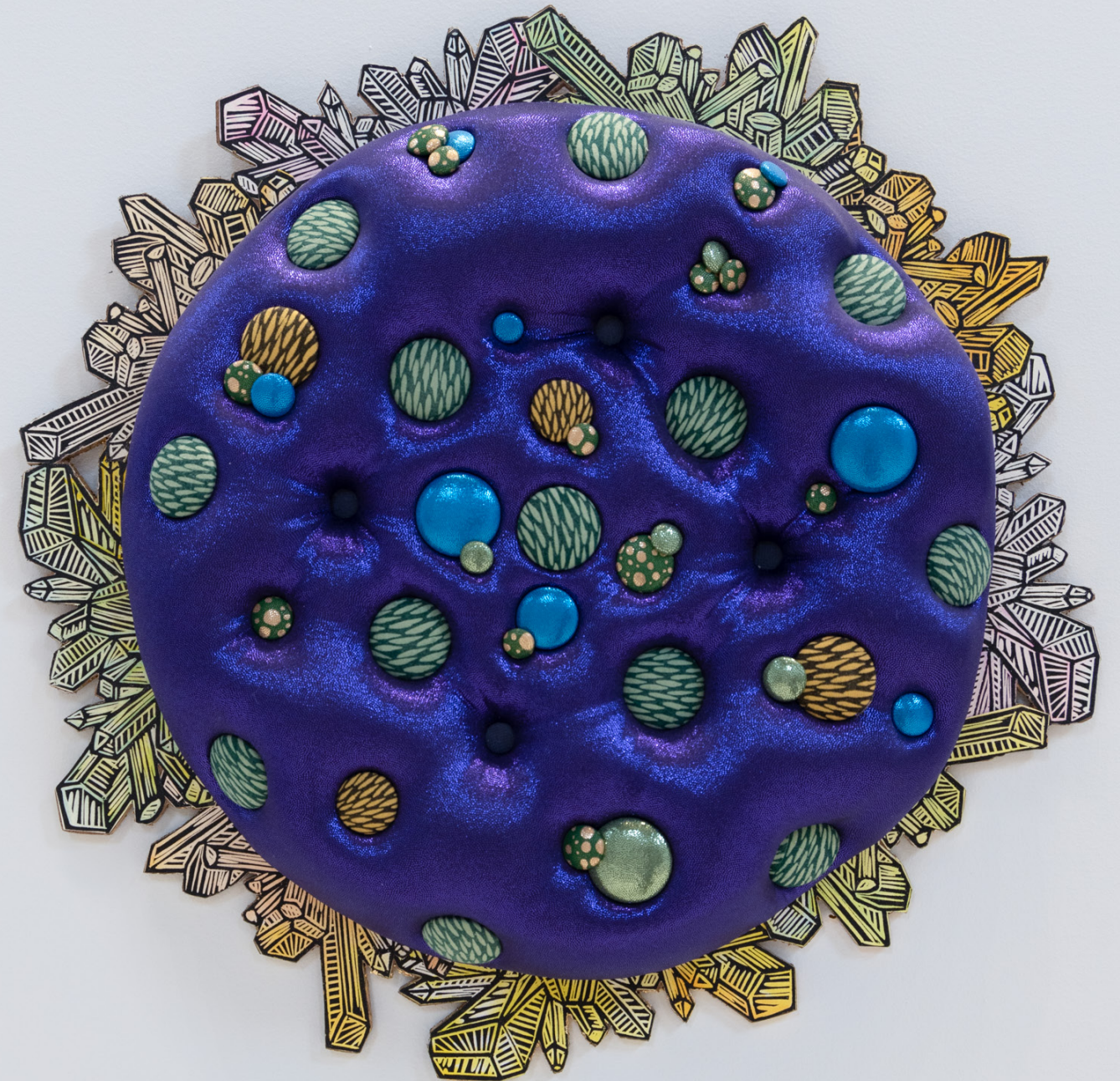


Best of Bowie
Reflective Vinyl, Spandex,
Wood, Foam
2022
30 X 30 X 6"



Red Fungus

Spandex cushion, dyed & printed cotton fabric, handmade buttons, wood
2022
10 X 18"



Violet Crystals

Relief Cut Print, Watercolor, Handmade Buttons, Spandex, Cotton, Leafing
2021
22 x 22 x 4 "



Take a Good Look

Found Object, Wood, Masonite,
Vinyl, Relief Print, Cotton, Spandex
2022
19 X 25 X 4.5"



Daylight at 9am



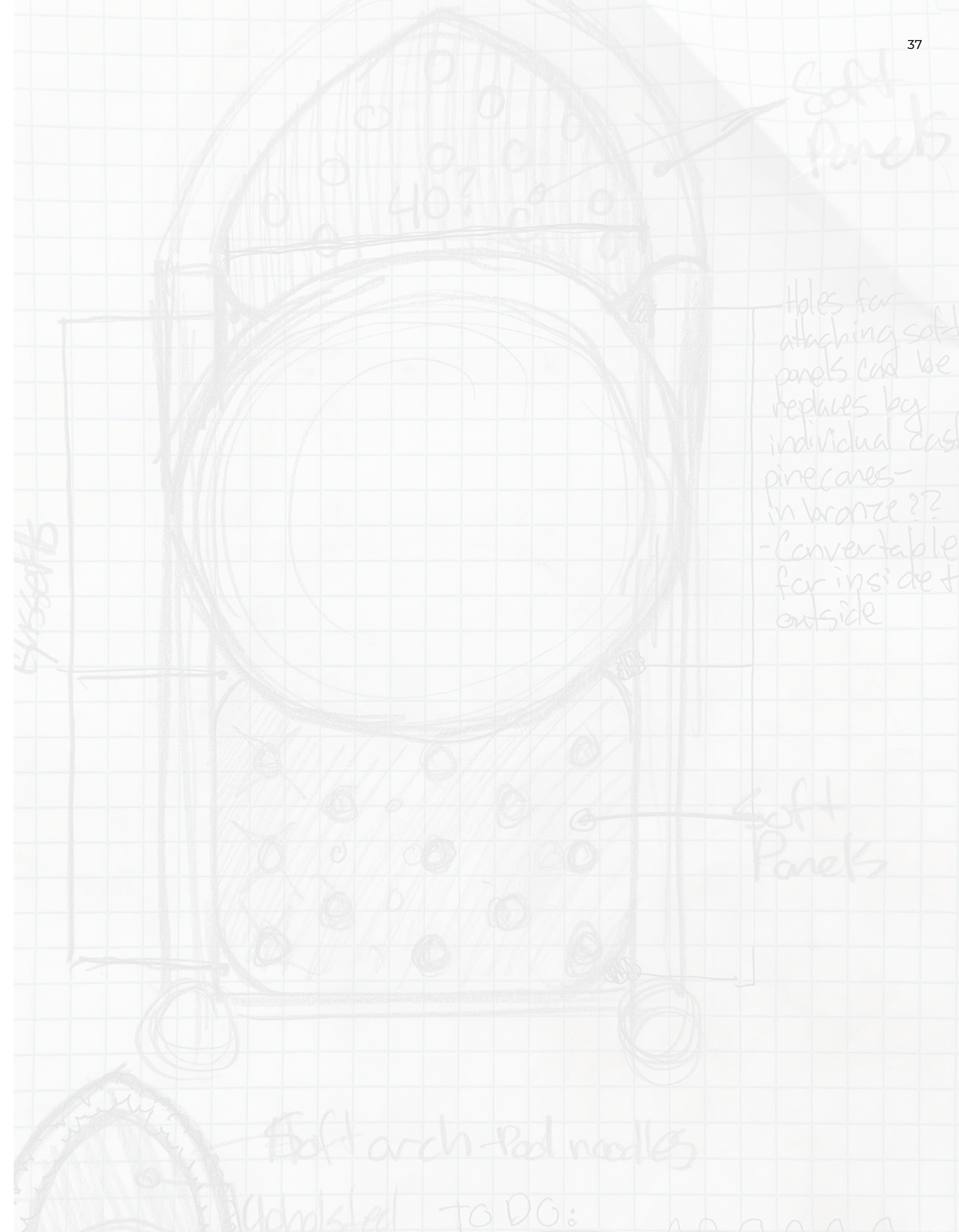
Nature of Vanity

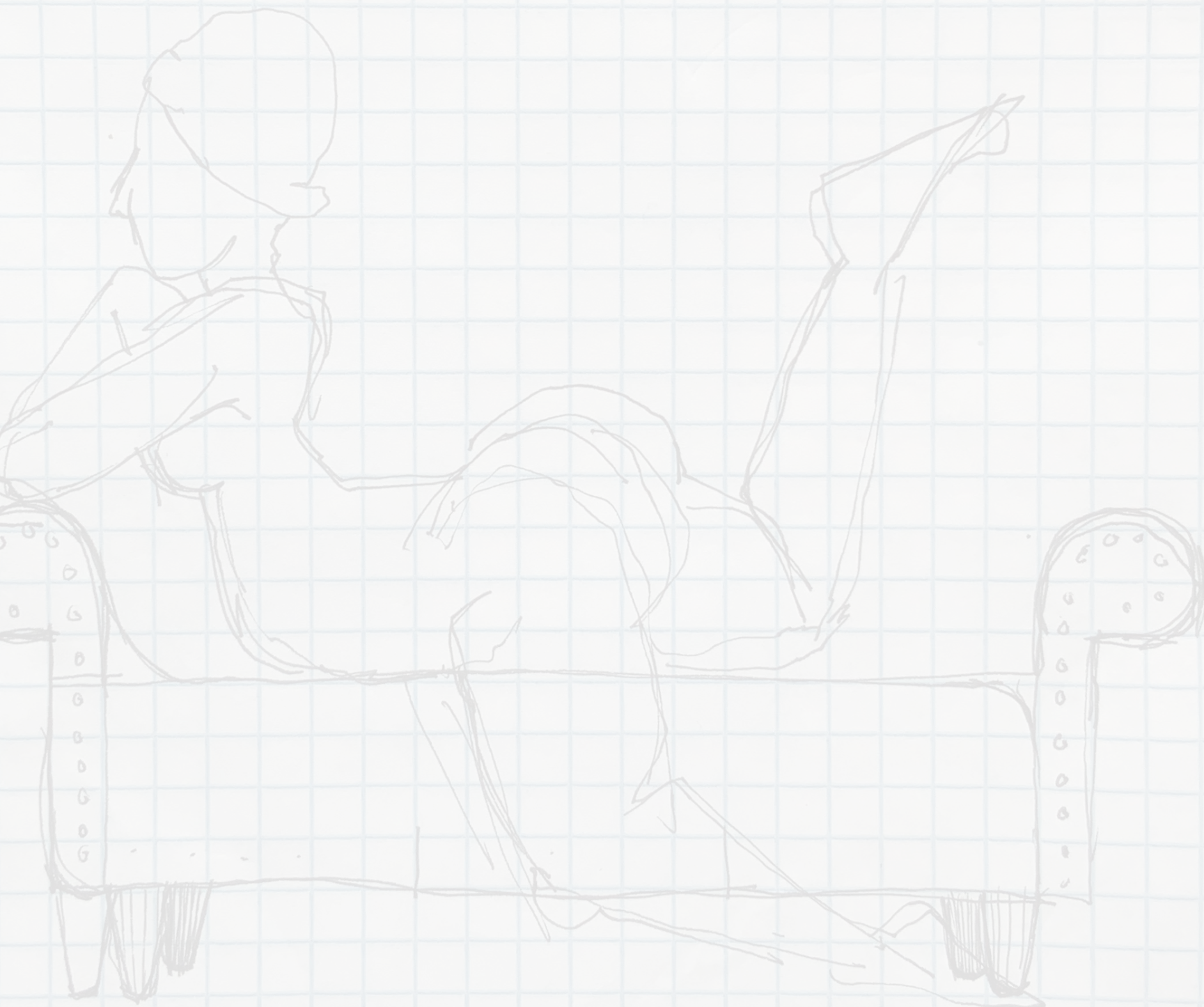
Found Object, Vinyl, Spandex, Cotton,
Relief Print, Wood, Wire
2022
19 X 25 X 8"





Maquettes
Mixed Media
2021-22





Sculpture

Iron Maiden Series

40-41 **Be'Laxing**

42-43 **Baby Blue**

44-45 **Backbend**

46-47 **Booty Judy**

48 **Middle Meats: Varied Edition**

48 **Torso: Varied Edition**

Just Kickin It Series

49 **Rusty Flores**

50 **Green Machine**

51 **Sunny Side Up**

52 **Mother Lotus**

53 **Golden Lotus**

54 **Rusted Rose Lotus**

55 **Violet Unicorn**

56 **Pine Cone Cakes: Sun, Earth, Water**

57 **Space Disco**

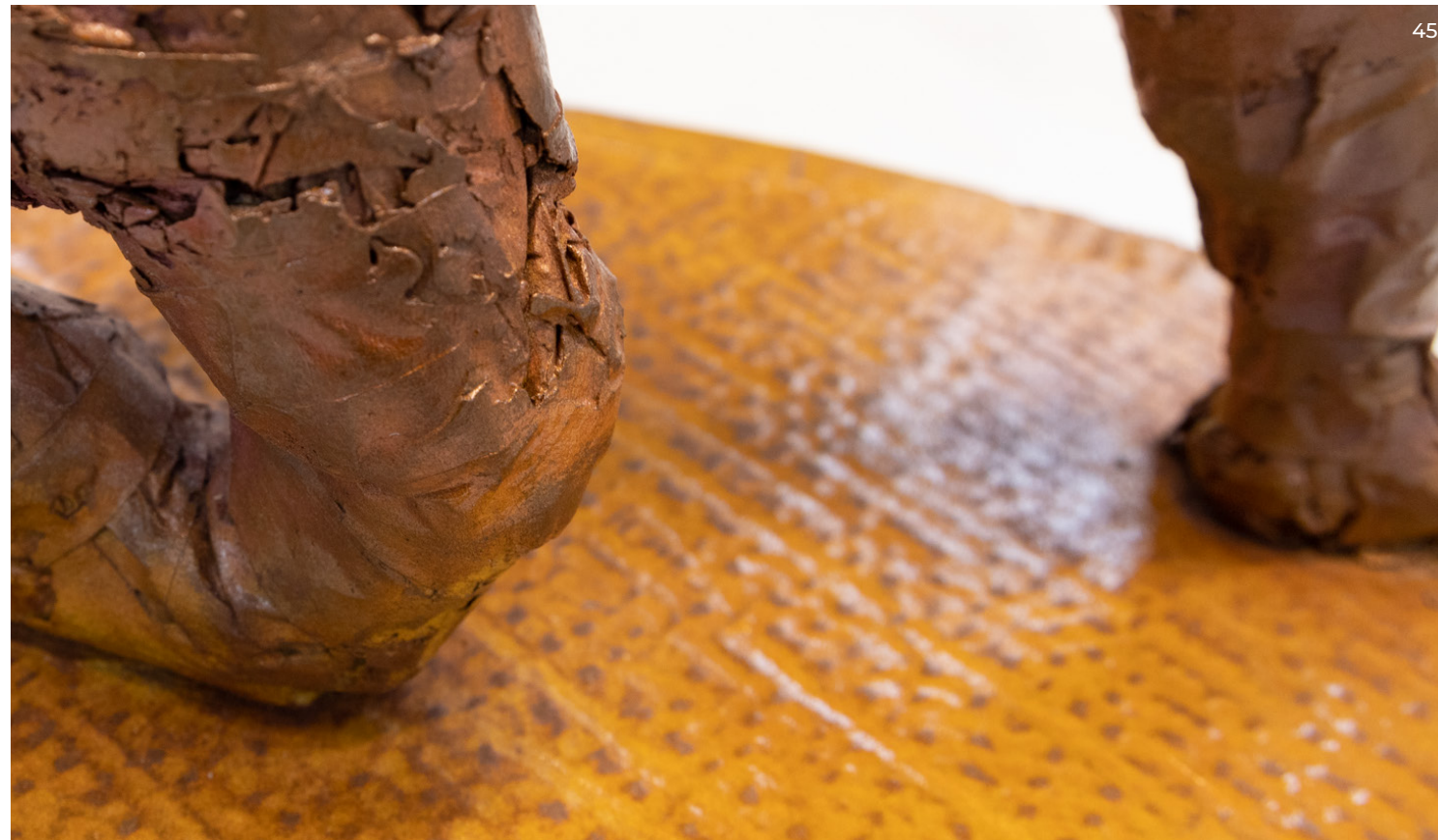
58-59 **Disco-Cones**



Be'Laxing
 Cast Iron, Denim, Foam, Wood
 2022
 22 x 12 x 11"



Baby Blue
 Cast Iron, Spray Paint
 2021
 10 x 7 x 11"



Backbend
 Cast Iron, Spray Paint, Rust
 2021
 21 x 10 x 12"



Booty Judy
 Cast Iron
 2021
 7 X 10 X 20"





Middle Meats: Varied Edition
 Cast Iron, Wood
 2021



Torso: Varied Edition
 Cast Iron, Wood
 2021



Rusty Flores
 Cast Iron, Wood, Felt, Denim
 2022
 7 x 10"



Green Machine
 Cast Iron, Wood, Felt, Cotton
 2022
 7 x 10"



Sunny Side Up
 Cast Iron, Wood, Felt, Vinyl
 2022
 7 x 10"



Space Lotus
 Cast Iron, Wood, Felt, Spandex, Spray Paint
 2022
 7 x 10"



Golden Lotus
 Cast Iron, Wood, Felt, Spandex, Spray Paint
 2022
 7 x 10"



Rusted Rose Lotus
 Cast Iron, Wood, Felt, Spandex, Spray Paint
 2022
 7 x 10"



Violet Unicorn
 Cast Iron, Wood, Felt
 2022
 7 x 10"



Pine Cone Cakes: Sun

Cast Bronze, Wood, Rogue Vinyl
2021-22
13 X 8"

Pine Cone Cakes: Earth

Cast Bronze, Wood, 1972 Ford Vinyl
2021-22
11.5 X 9"

Pine Cone Cakes: Water

Cast Bronze, Wood, 1969 Chevrolet Vinyl
2021-22
15 X 9"



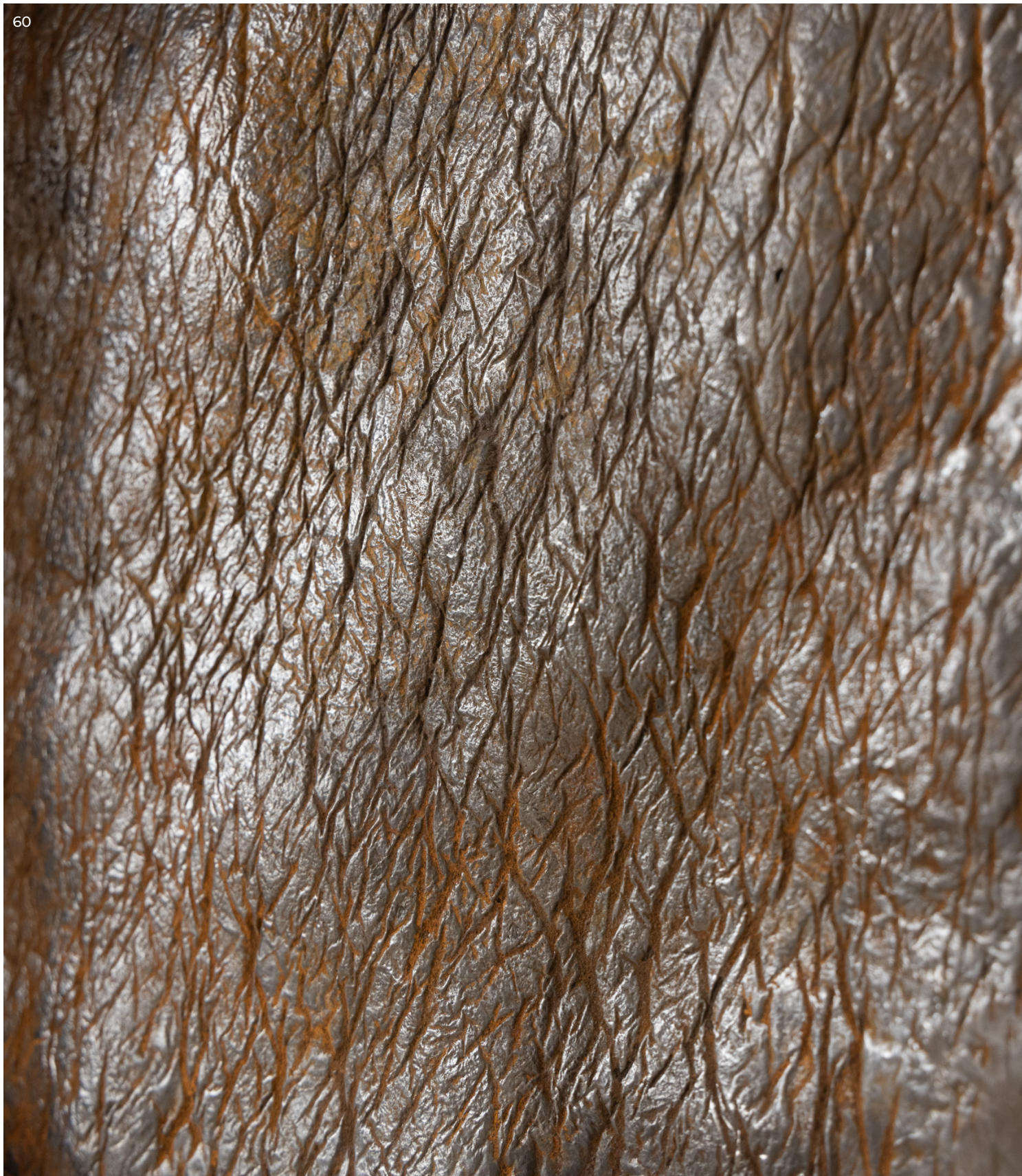
Space Disco

Cast Iron, Wood, Denim
2020-22
20 x 20 x 29"



Disco-Cones

Cast Iron, Steel
 2021-22
 6.5' x 4'
 864 lbs.



Disco-Cones (back)

Cast Iron, Steel
2021-22
864 lbs.





Crystal and her sidekick, Rosie

Artist Biography

I am an artist, handy woman, dog mom and crazy plant lady. Born and raised in Kansas, I grew up in Smolan where I spent my childhood with my parents and my younger brother on a few country acres outside of town. My creative career started early and I have many fond memories of making art starting as far back as I can remember. I attended all my primary and secondary school years in Lindsborg, KS graduating from Smoky Valley High School, class of 2001. Lindsborg has a rich traditional Swedish folk and art culture and this early exposure to the visual arts, dance and music truly had an impact on my ability to develop as a young artist. It also has had lasting impressions on my own personal style.

I continued to pursue higher education at Fort Hays State University and completed my Bachelor of Fine Art degree in 2006. After graduating, I was chosen to work as an intern at the Women's Studio Workshop in Rosendale, New York, a small little town nestled in the Catskills. As an intern working between bookmaking and printmaking studios I was exposed to new ideas and methods through collaborations with other artists. An eye opening experience which I will always refer to as my "romantic period" still stands as one of the most formative chapters in my life.

Once I completed the internship I moved to Lawrence, KS and stayed there for nearly 12 years. I continued to pursue my art making in any capacity possible and found work in a small local silkscreen shop. I had a love for printmaking and this shop was the source of many creative relationships and projects over time. As I settled I slowly found myself collecting more houseplants and started gardening. Eventually I found a part time job on a local farm. While I kept up printing full time for many years, I eventually traded in my printing apron for a pair of overalls. In 2014 my professional goals shifted towards community based programming within the agricultural, environmental and food sectors. I served the community through various education and outreach leadership roles. The work was always incredibly rewarding and satisfying, but again in 2019 I decided to return to academic study.

I returned to Fort Hays State University in order to complete my master's degree in printmaking. Now, with my program completed I am taking on new adventures and waiting patiently for the universe to reveal new challenges and opportunities. My summer post-grad will be spent traveling to Europe as an artist's assistant in Germany building a furnace for iron casting along with some of my former faculty and studio mates. As I write this biography I have told the story of my past but now enter into the realm of speculation and dreams. I do not know what will come along after my trip abroad but I plan to focus my energy back into my art practice and establishing my own personal studio, both for business and pleasure.

I will always have a passion and an urge to teach and lead but hope to do so in a way that enriches the community in which I exist. I am forever grateful for all the opportunities and people who have been part of my journey and eagerly await all of those to come.

Curriculum Vitae

*(Juried by) **(award or recognition) ***(publication)

2022

Calculations: Units of Measurement, Alte Rathaus and Heidecksburg, Rudolstadt, Thüringen, 9th International Conference of Contemporary Cast Iron Art, Berlin, Germany, September 2022, *Rian Kerrane

Mother Water, Solo exhibition, Moss-Thorns Gallery, Hays, KS

** *Koch Cultural Trust, Enabling grant recipient*, \$5000

Well Fed, portfolio exchange exhibited University of Madison, WI, *Becci Spruill

Print, Printed, Printing, Las Vegas, NM

SACAD, Patricia A. Schmidt Art and Design Building, Hays, KS

***Graduate Scholarly Research Grant*, Fort Hays State: Graduate School

2021

Graduate Student Exhibition, Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art. Hays, KS.

Bound, LightArtSpace, Silver City, New Mexico. *Chip Thomas **Honorable Mention

We All Come From Somewhere: Portfolio exchange, Power and Light Press, Silver City, NM.

Fortitude and Persistence, Fort Hays State University, group exhibition. Colby Prairie Museum, Colby, KS & Lincoln Art Center, Lincoln KS.

Art on the Oasis, Bender Hall, Colby Community College, Colby, KS **3rd place professional

***Art Scholarship*, Fort Hays State University

Fortitude and Persistence, group exhibition, Hays Arts Council, Hays, KS

52nd Annual Smoky Hill Exhibition, Juried, Jay Nelson, Hays Arts Council, Hays, KS

2020

Kansas Byways, invitational, Hays Arts Council, Second Gallery

Art on the Oasis, Bender Hall Gallery, Colby Community College, Colby, KS, **cash award 1st, 2nd & Jurer's Merit in professional category, Colby, KS

51st Annual Smoky Hill Exhibition, Hays Arts Council, Hays, KS, *Paul Allen

The International Contemporary Miniprint of Kazanlak, Art Gallery Kazanlak, *Barbara Graham (New Zealand), *Peter Boyadjieff (Bulgaria), Bulgaria

Featured Artist, The Art Guild Gallery, Dodge City, KS

** *Don and Marie Dwyer Scholarship*, Fort Hays State University

** *Earl O and Winona M. Field Scholarship*, Fort Hays State University

***Graduate Scholarly Research Grant*, Fort Hays State University: Graduate School

2019

Graduate Exhibition, invitational group show, The Annex, Hays, KS

** *Excellence in Service to Students Award*, The National Society of Leadership and Success, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

2018

Make a Wish Foundation Bubble Ball, Kansas City, KS

Festival of Lights, Liberty Hall, Lawrence, KS

2012

Culinary Color Play, solo invitational, Community Mercantile, Lawrence, KS

Women's Studio Workshop Internship Review, Cafe Semolino, Hays, KS

2008

34th Annual Smoky Hill Exhibition, juried Hays Arts Council

Recent Works, two person exhibition, Semolino Cafe, Hays, KS

2007 Art Affair Gallery, group show, Baldwin, KS

Forgeries, group show Women's Studio Workshop, Rosendale, New York

Amazing Women, group show, Artspring Gallery, Salina, KS

Recent Works, Capers Cafe, Salina, KS

2006

Paintings, a group exhibition, Semolina Cafe, Hays, KS

Student Honors Exhibition, Moss-Thorns Gallery, Hays, KS**

Crede Small Print Exhibition, Crede, CO,***merit award

High Plains Printmakers, a group exhibition Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

***Student Research/Creative Activity Grant*, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

****Creative Convocations*, National Art Publication Volume 2, Issue 1

2005

Full Figured, BFA exhibition, Hays Arts Council, Hays, KS

Watercolor Monotype, group exhibition, Hays Arts Council, Hays, KS

Student Honors Exhibition, Moss thorns Gallery, Hays, KS *

*** *Lines*, FHSU English Department: Art and Poetry, Hays, KS

2004

Student Honors Exhibition, Moss-Thorns Gallery, Hays, KS*

Mark Making, group exhibition, Studio Gallery, Hays, KS

Kansas Collegiate Aesthetics, The Birger Sandzen Gallery, Lindsborg, KS *

*** *Lines*, FHSU English Department: Art and Poetry, Hays, KS

2003

Student Honors Exhibition, Moss-Thorns Gallery, Hays, KS, *, **

2002

Student Honors Exhibition, Moss-Thorns Gallery, Hays, KS, *, **

Collections

Well Fed, portfolio exchange organized by Becci Spruill, held in the Zuckerman Museum of Art at Kennesaw State University, GA

Southern Graphic Council International: 2022 Members Portfolio Exchange, held in Kohler Art Library, UW-Madison, WI

We All Come From Somewhere, portfolio exchange organized by Juana Estrada Hernandez & Calliandra Marian Hermanson, held in the Zuckerman Museum of Art: SGC Print Collection & Archives, Kennesaw State University, GA

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Author: Crystal J Hammerschmitt

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Date: May 25, 2022



MT
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S
MOSS-THORN'S
GALLERY of ART
& The Patricia A. Schmidt Gallery Lobby