

shape of the work/ day/ earth

Notes on the work

The title of the exhibition comes from a poem by **Ed Roberson** that appears in his book *Etai-eken*, 1975. I have been reading and engaging with Roberson's work this year. I have been particularly interested in his writing about what we might call the natural world and blackness, ideas that are important to my work as well.

This exhibition moves around and through ideas of the world and the earth. This grouping of pieces connects to ongoing Ailanthus work (two pieces in the show deal directly with the Ailanthus) but also has a larger scope of thinking around our entanglement in the systems of the earth. A means to think about the landscape as a site of politics and poetics.

heat

Wood ,2021

The generation of heat is at the core of human survival, also the cause of our demise as a species. A chunk of wood, section of a tree that has passed into a standard form/ scale for use or utility, firewood. We see potential heat, potential energy.

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Rotation of the earth, windows propped open with sections of lumber for the duration of the exhibition, 2021

This line from Roberson has helped me organize my thoughts about scale on various levels. Work is labor, day is measurement and rotation, earth is earth. Then there is shape, form etc... Opening the windows is a way to connect the gallery space with the world outside, the sound of migrating birds and road construction, conversation and music from passing cars. That world space also contains a cemetery directly outside the building, and this year forms of memorial have been on my mind. The other works in the space are not isolated objects but forms of participation in the world, the humid air of spring in Somerville helps me to remember this.

measures

Wood and powder coated steel, 2019-2021

A section of a tree and a tool of measurement, the metal object marks and measures the space between my hands. The color speaks to attention. This wood was found after someone cleared a field. A cut or fracture, a limb.

ailanthus and sun

Kodak royal paper, tape and PVC, 2021

Ailanthus as a multiplied image, cloning, repetition etc. Yellow is the sun, energy, heat, photosynthesis, but plastic is human, and chemical and deathly.

ailanthus

Toner on folded paper, 2020-2021

Ailanthus as material, scanned, tree as image through a bureaucratic process. The image is gridded by folding the paper.

handle

Wood, 2021

A handle, wood, a tree is processed through human means, scaled to a hand. Used, discarded, cropped. It hangs by the door like a tool, a measure, a marker.

MS 2021