

Eva Marie Nelson pencils and erases to draw together death and birth in *Peach Pit*, so named because “a peach pit is an ending, but it’s also a beginning....”

and

“maybe a peach pit is a grief garment, but I don’t know why.”

A peach pit is not a seed. The pit guards an inner seed. Folds allow absorption. Holes guide the water to the seed.

A seed may rest in there because it must wait. If a seed absorbs what comes, life forms. A protecting garment supports the nourishment of a seed, until a sprout tears through the fabric: naked, green.

“That which encloses or gives origin to” something is a matrix.

Matrix is from the Latin *mater*. It means mother. It means womb. Mom is the glue. A spider. She holds the purse and puppet strings. She knows where everyone’s stuff is and she’ll hold it for you until you need it. You can put whatever you want into her bag, but children may be restricted from reaching into certain pockets. She rewards your obedience. She is not just a mom, though that’s all you see. It may at times repulse you that you came from her, and her body is your very own.

Eva maps the threads that weave the cosmic to the chthonic, flesh to the bones, our world to the next and last. Between two separated seas, there’s a channel which makes them one water. The dead are as alive as the living are dead. We have each other. We need each other.

“Sun is the reflection of a life within us; life is god (shine eternally).
Eternal life is the intersection of the line of time in the plane of now (we live forever).
Ruled by human logic we sometimes confine ourselves to one plane of the universe.
We can see and finally know that we live forever, shine eternally.
Our souls are the centres of realization (in realization of life we love)
In love we know that we live forever and shine eternally.”
Shira Small, “Eternal Life”, *The Line of Time and The Plane of Now*, 1974

-Kayla Noel Trameri

Multidisciplinary artist Eva Nelson uses meticulous pencil drawings to explore cycles of illness, addiction, death, and growth. Her pieces collapse the micro and macro, revealing prismatic patterns that are at once cellular and universal.

Eva Nelson (1990) is self-taught and based in New York and Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to drawing, she works in fashion, garment design, and performance. Nelson has exhibited designs at Camayuhs (Atlanta), and she continues to release original clothing through her own BadClad imprint.

“Clothing came from a place of joy,” she says about her creative trajectory. “This is darker.” But, while the collection of drawings at Gern Gallery meditates on loss, it is not without a sense of play.

Eva Nelson’s drawings have appeared at Annex de Odelon (New York) and in *Baited Area* magazine. *Peach Pit* is her first solo show.

-Adam Keith

