

Kalli Kouf

Candy R. Wei Prize for International Studies in Art and Design

Last year I stood on the edge of a three-hundred-foot cliff in fifty mph winds and pouring down rain taking video of the ocean. Little did I know, a year later a projection of that scene would illuminate my weaving. I had been studying abroad at the Burren College of Art in the small town of Ballyvaughan, population: 200. Though the town was small the spaces were vast, mentally and physically, and I was surrounded by the wonders of the natural world.

I grew up in Montana and California, which I had been missing in Michigan. Being at Burren, I was able to reconnect to my sense of space. I took walks past dilapidated buildings from the 1700's, herds of sheep, shifting clouds, and this connection to space helped me reconnect to the spaces I had inhabited in the past. There was a distance between the landscapes I knew and the one I was in, but I saw similarities too. The lines in the limestone looked like the mountain ridges in Montana; the rolling hills looked like the ocean. I began to project images of landscapes onto the buildings and the grass to create a tangible experience of the way these places overlapped in my mind, creating a dual reality that challenged notions of time and space.

Back in Michigan I found myself still longing for the sublimity of nature I experienced at the Burren. Using the processes that I discovered in the Burren, I created a hyper real environment with textures of the earth filling in the crevices of sculpted weavings. The weavings act as a landscape for the projections to land upon, piecing together landscapes I had traveled in to create a seamless sense of space. The Burren infused my work with a sense of vastness and sublimity.

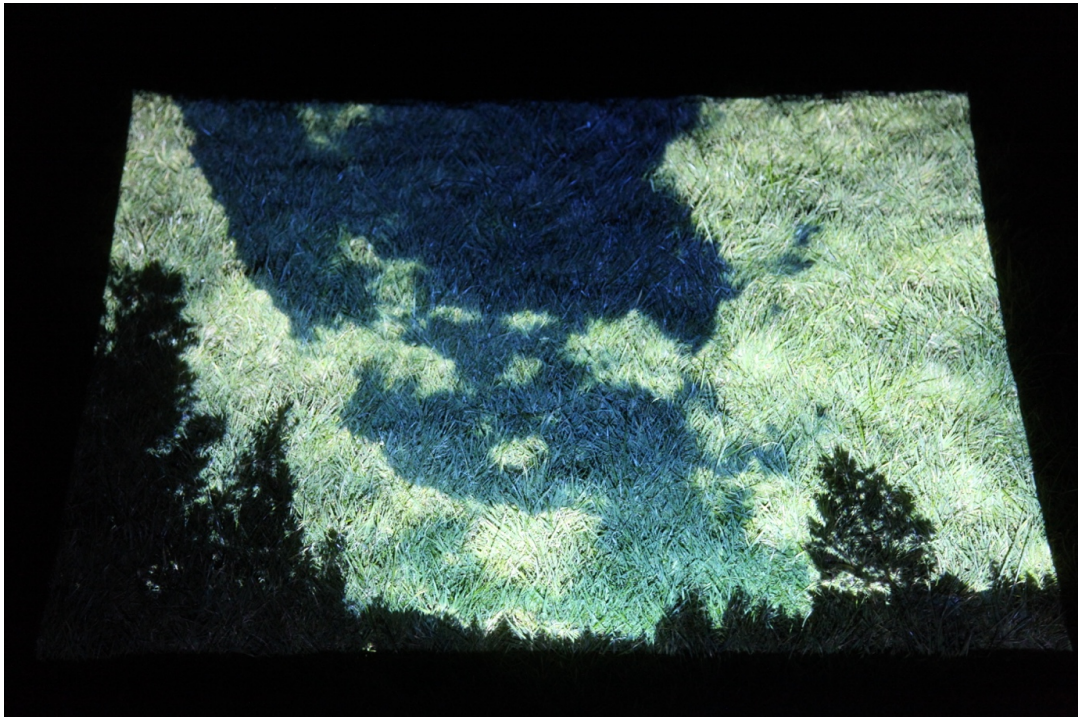
This Is Not My Sister

I asked my sister to send me a photo of a palm tree. That photo went through her phone, then was sent to my phone, then went through my computer, then through a projector where it landed on the grass of the Burren, and it was then photographed through my digital camera, where it arrive on the 32 GB SD card, which was connected to my computer through a card reader, which allows the photograph to travel through a flash drive and be transferred to another computer connected to the Epson Style Pro 7900 printer, where it was then sent to the printer and finally landed on a single sheet of Glossy Paper.

(accepted to the Undergrad Juried Show 2017)



I carry images of places I am connected to around with me. I put them up on my studio wall, on my bedroom wall, and use them for the background image on my phone. In the Burren I wanted to make a connection between those places and the space I occupied while being there. The images range from ocean views in California, to tree lines in Montana. The images landed on the grass of the Burren with a sense of physicality.



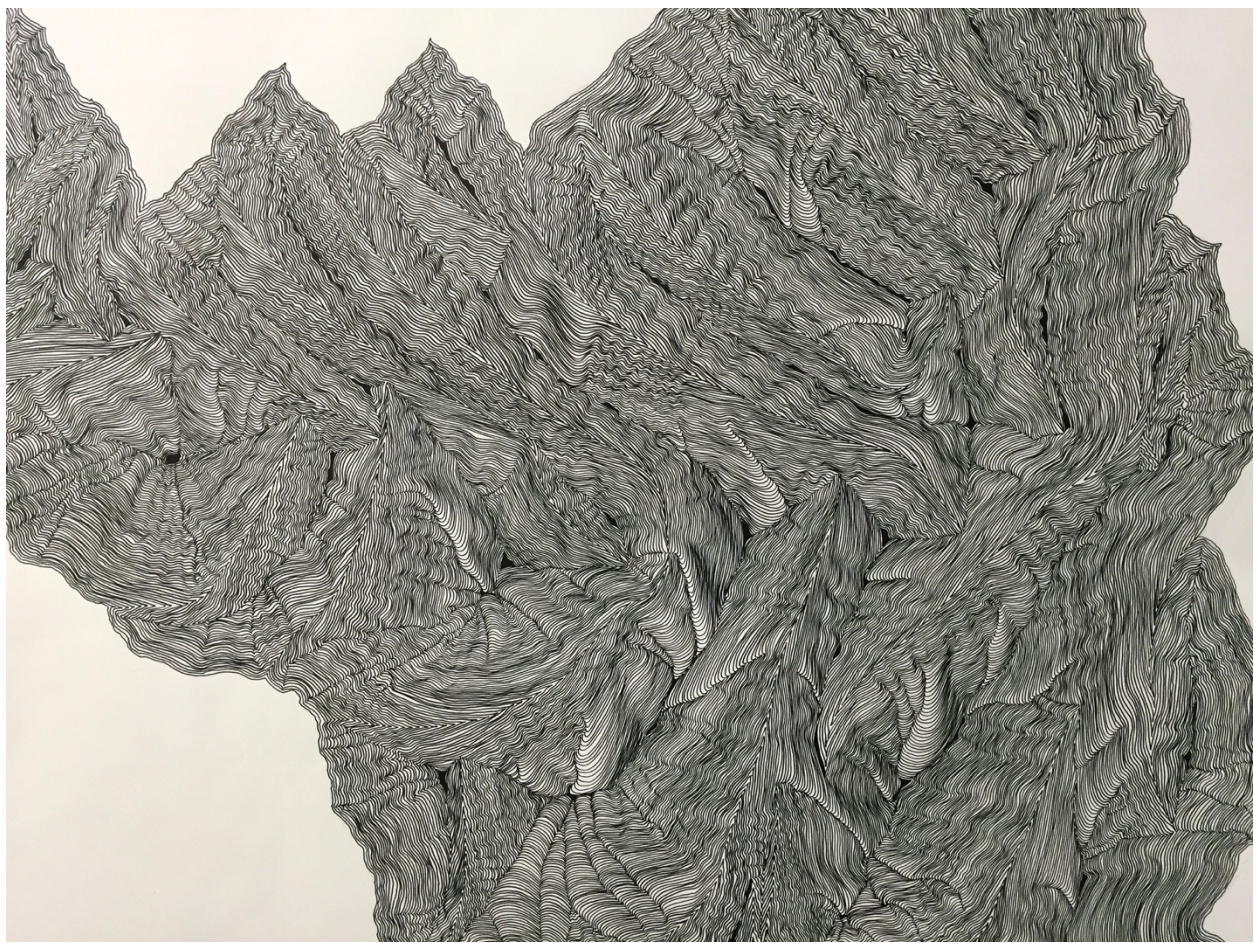
This It Not My Other Brother

Line drawings, drawings of lines, lines of nature, natural lines. I love the earth, the earth loves me, mountains have lines, the lines are in mountains, rocks are lines, lines are rocks, tree rings. the rings are in trees, waves are big, there are big waves, cliff lines, those lines in the cliffs. Lines of connection between space and place.

Dimensions: 4 feet x 4 feet

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(Close up)