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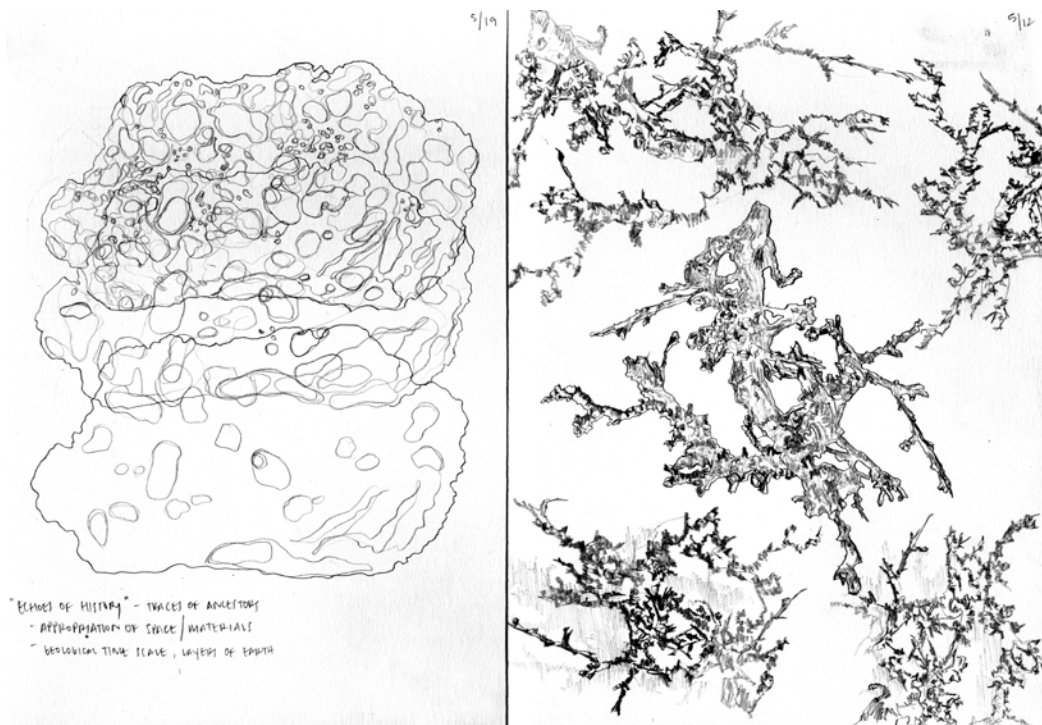
The Burren, County Clare, Ireland: a place where miles of rocky pavement and stepped-mountain cliff faces gracefully merge into pure green fields surrounded by walls and structures of the same limestone. During the month of my stay there from May-June 2014, I was inspired by the drystone walls, to think about how this system of division could be used as a way to connect with my surroundings instead of separate me from them. I tried to follow in the footsteps of the Burren's historical inhabitants, who found their own place within its formation rather than attempting to overcome its dynamic temperament.

I wanted to interact with the land in a meaningful way, to synthesize the rocks and cliffs and walls as a creative inquiry, searching for insight into the distinction between natural and organic spaces. I wanted to tell the story of the rocks and the craftsmen who raised the walls and structures that became an integral part of the landscape. I experienced a profound and exhilarating fulfillment in recording these patterns and textures that define how the Burren came to be, how it moved across the sea and surged upwards into folding hills and mountains, how it holds the traces of water and erosion right on its exposed face. I learned to observe and translate the peaks and valleys of a rock's surface as its own small panorama of natural forms.

Through my study abroad experience in Ireland, I was able to discover the intimate proximity of the history that is literally buried beneath our feet. For the first time, geology became a platform for artistic expression, building upon my past interest in rock formations for their tactile and visual qualities. I discovered a way of seeing and engaging with my surroundings, a method of making and writing that I'd developed throughout my undergraduate education, now brought into a new level of clarity and focus. Even now, almost a year after my trip, the Burren has come to represent a lasting state of mind: one that considers every seemingly familiar experience as fresh and shining, alive and full of meaning.



studio display – photographs, rubbings, drawings, collage, prints, painting



sketchbook images drawn using a Camera Lucida



Bookmark, oil on canvas, 16" D



Rock III: Clyde; woodcut print, 9" x 12"



Stone Hedge, multi-block woodcut print on Rives BFK, 30" x 40"