

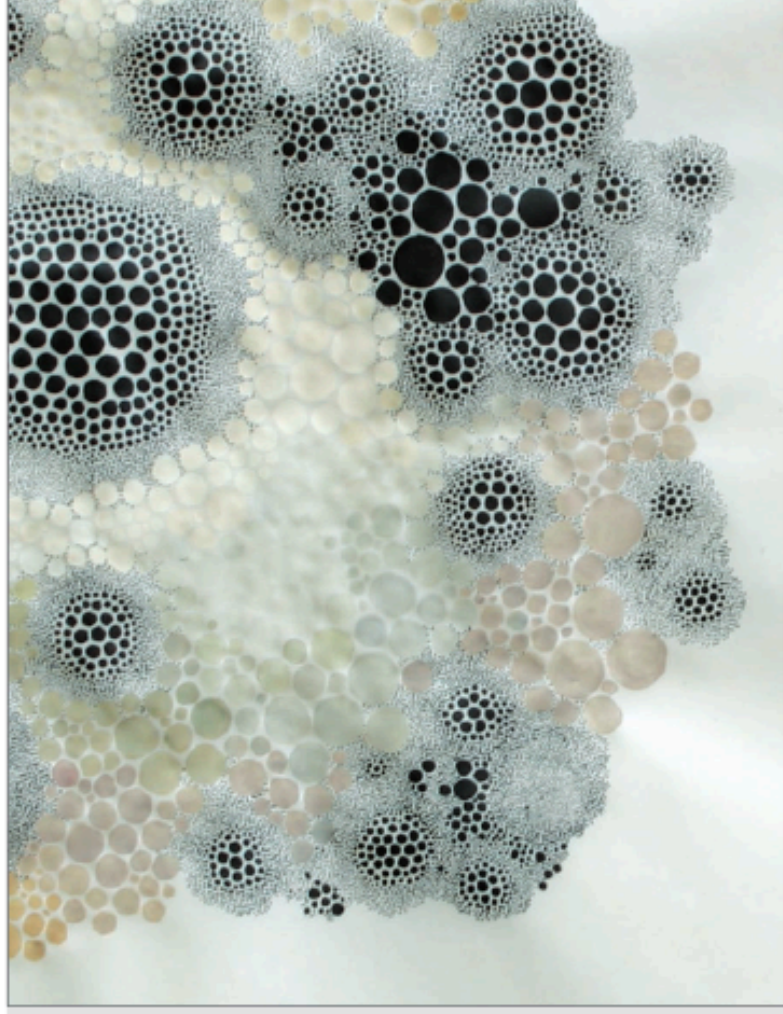


Nina Bovasso and Karen Margolis

The longevity of the Mill's relationship with its emerging artists through the Workspace Program is unique in that handmade paper, as a shared solution for the considered surface, often takes root. Nina Bovasso and Karen Margolis (2003 and 2000 Workspace Program artists, respectively) continue to integrate handmade paper into their work, examples of which can be seen in *New Paper Works*, now on view at Dieu Donn .

Nina Bovasso's high-chroma acrylic work is one of immense accumulation, repetition and patchwork. Floral landscapes, geometric construction, cartoonish-rendering and even the occasional architectural build-up are familiar themes. The result is an over-lapping assemblage of near-shape objects that is cheerfully inviting. Her drawings float delicately above the surface, creating approachable abstraction that entices the viewer in a way that few semi-abstract works can. Nina's use of handmade translucent abaca paper helps establish a cause and effect relationship between her line work and surface. The natural texture of abaca with all its imperfections also yields a playful cockling effect that echoes her mark making like rippling water or gusts of wind. Her signature takes the form of a watermarked *ns* on each piece.

If some consider Bovasso's work playful or capricious, Karen Margolis produces antithetical work through drawings that rely on pinpoint accuracy and arduous, disciplinary methods. Once the content is revealed, described by the artist as "the behavior of neurotransmitters as they interact with synthetic and organic chemicals," the density and complexity of her work truly takes shape. The interpen-



tive side of her work allows for a burst and bloom of color and composition that makes the work very accessible. Often cropped at the paper's edge, her choice to enhance the fleeting feeling of each form is not unrelated to the emotional patterns she depicts. Like Bovasso, Margolis also works on handmade abaca paper. The translucent surface creates a fluidity that accelerates the movement of these transient forms.

For both artists, handmade paper plays a role by extending the meaning of their surface as more than a plane, but also as a form and medium for further expression itself. It is this untapped potential for the creation of contemporary art that Dieu Donn  strives to develop through collaboration with artists.

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