

Artist Statement: *May 2019*

In these drawings I am burning holes in paper using an ordinary magnifying glass and sunlight. It is a simple activity that requires no special tools or instruction; in fact, most people have done it at some point growing up. The idea to use sunlight as a drawing tool came from wanting to make work that was less personal, less about me. “Is it possible to make marks in my drawing that I don’t make?” was a question I asked in an informal critique of my work four years ago. Someone suggested making marks using a magnifying glass and sunlight. A few days later I found an old magnifying glass in my desk and began experimenting with the idea. Because I was using thin paper my “marks” turned out to be holes, which I saw, right away, added another layer of possibilities.

The paper I am using, Lokta paper, is made in Nepal where I lived for five years when I was in my twenties and I discovered the paper then. I have used the paper in my work many times since but I have never left it so exposed. In these drawings the paper itself is a significant part of the work.

The process has taught me some interesting things about collaborating with nature. Of course, using the sun as a drawing tool in the rainy Northwest is a challenging idea to begin with, but how to judge the clarity of a sunny day is something I have had to learn. For example, if there is even a slight haze the sun’s rays will scatter and make it impossible to burn. Another thing is that this work *is* a collaboration. Nature is there in the paper and the use of sunlight, and despite my effort to have less of myself in these drawings, my decisions about size, shape, edge, surface, and countless other things make the work what it is.