

ANNIE KAMMERER BUTRUS



INTERNAL: EXTERNAL

Realized primarily through painting, Annie Butrus' (b. Evanston, Illinois) artistic practice focuses on the intersection of science, landscape, and memory. Butrus' interest lies in how mapping shapes our idea of place and belonging, how to document change and time, and how often the source of our interaction with nature is from the inside looking out.

Her process employs many series of latex resist and layers of opaque and translucent acrylic paint, applied in succession to create lines and boundaries. Labor intensive, the resist application records the act of painting, allows complete control of the painted surface and then, once removed, transforms the painting over and over, creating positive and negative voids.

Internal: External reveals the power of the landscape in our imaginations and the interior and exterior landscapes of the brain. The work presents overlays of images derived from photographic images showing a coronal cross-section of brain activity from functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) with shadow tracings of Alabama landscapes. *Internal: External* are horizontal diptychs featuring cranium demarcations, lateral ventricles, and the brain's left and right hemispheres, commingling with 20 years of documenting places in Alabama such as peach orchards, formal gardens, and state parks.

Singular hues and a wide-ranging panoply of color reflect individual or multiple emotional states and communicate with the left and right cranial hemispheres. The resulting colour presentations feature both distinct and complex emotions happening simultaneously, highlighting the role of real and imagined landscape experiences that are interchangeable in our memory and "read" as the same in fMRI scans. Suspension, depth, and ethereality connect to Butrus' use of the horizon line, where the physical separation in diptychs offers broad notions of above and below.

As she sought to understand the brain and the impact of nature on it, Professor Michele Forman, Dr. Jonathan Roth, and Drs. Laili and James Markert responded thoughtfully to her questions about brain science. She is ever grateful for their support.

Butrus is an award-winning artist with an M.F.A. in Painting and Printmaking from the University of Notre Dame and a B.A. from Wellesley College. Notable public and private collections, such as the Children's Hospital of Alabama, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the Wellesley College Rare Book Arts Collection, hold her work. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Art Papers, and The Birmingham News have reviewed her work. She lives and works in Birmingham, Alabama, where she conducts her Color Response Community Art Project and is a member of Ground Floor Contemporary.

Annie Kammerer Butrus
February 2024