

*Uncover, Reclaim: 2024 Guilford College Senior Art Thesis*

Mary “Maren” Lamb

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Guilford College

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

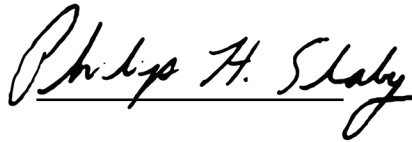
Bachelor of Arts

In Visual Arts: Printmaking Focus

April 23, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy Collier', written over a horizontal line.

Katy Collier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip A. Slaby', written over a horizontal line.

Philip Slaby

Two handwritten signatures in black ink, one on the left and one on the right, both written over horizontal lines.

Kathryn Shields and Mark Dixon, Co-Chairs

Title: Uncover, Reclaim

Author: Mary “Maren” Lamb

Date of Submission: 04/23/2024

Brief Description of Components: Artist Statement followed by images of woodcut prints accompanied by image descriptions.

Hardware and software used to produce the thesis and necessary to access the digital product submitted:

N/A

List of all files submitted:

File Name	Date Modified	File Size	File Type
checkerboard.jpg	4/21/2024	2.4 MB	JPEG Image
drowned.jpg	4/21/2024	3.9 MB	JPEG Image
coolit.jpg	4/21/2024	3 MB	JPEG Image
iwilllisten.jpg	4/21/2024	2.2 MB	JPEG Image
souryellowhope.jpg	4/21/2024	2 MB	JPEG Image
keepitclose.jpg	4/21/2024	2.2 MB	JPEG Image
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annunciation.jpg	4/21/2024	1.8 MB	JPEG Image
myownpersonalangel.jpg	4/21/2024	2.3 MB	JPEG Image
flyingisfalling.jpg	4/21/2024	2.5 MB	JPEG Image
forworse.jpg	4/21/2024	1.9 MB	JPEG Image
muddy.jpg	4/21/2024	2.6 MB	JPEG Image
selfdefense2.jpg	4/21/2024	2.1 MB	JPEG Image
wishingandhoping.jpg	4/21/2024	3.1 MB	JPEG Image

lookingforareason.jpg	4/21/2024	2.9 MB	JPEG Image
azulceleste.jpg	4/21/2024	2.7 MB	JPEG Image
selfdefense1.jpg	4/21/2024	1.9 MB	JPEG Image
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lemons.jpg	4/21/2024	1.8 MB	JPEG Image
giveupthefight.jpg	4/21/2024	2.6 MB	JPEG Image
control.jpg	4/21/2024	2 MB	JPEG Image
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i'minhere!.jpg	4/21/2024	2 MB	JPEG Image
buzzing,buzzing,buzzing.jpg	4/21/2024	1.9 MB	JPEG Image
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celestinesunset.jpg	4/21/2024	2.2 MB	JPEG Image
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muted.jpg	4/21/2024	2.6 MB	JPEG Image
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somethingtoprayon.jpg	4/19/2024	1.5 MB	JPEG Image
holdingthesky.jpg	4/19/2024	1.3 MB	JPEG Image



## Artist Statement

My work is a disjointed personal mythology that represents the dimensions of my experiences with depression. By creating densely layered and saturated woodcut monoprints, I contrast an unwavering belief in religion with the hopelessness of mental illness.

I invite viewers to explore this contrast through motifs inspired by Spanish Gothic churches. These sacred places have been made and remade over hundreds of years, creating complex textures derived from the layering of styles over centuries. To emulate this process of decay and renewal, I create abstract backgrounds containing fragments of plants and lace. Layered over these textures are woodblock prints of characters and objects, directly inspired by the use of bold symbols and the flatness of the figuration included in medieval art.

The narrative I am forming through this body of work follows two characters, Celeste and Clara, who each represent different aspects of my experience with depression. Celeste's story represents the battle against despair that people with depression must fight every day, and the strength it takes to find hope. Clara's beginning demonstrates the difficulties one might face through masking their mental illness and the loss of identity that comes with pretending you're okay when you're not. Her story ends triumphantly, with a bold assertion of self. Clara and Celeste are joined by several symbols that may represent hope or despair and are indicative of the nonlinear journey of recovery from mental illness. All of these images are recontextualized through my treatment of them in my monoprints, adding complexity to the presentation of my experience.

My printing process starts outdoors. I take long walks in the Guilford woods to collect plants to use while printing. These walks are grounding for me and reinvigorate me in my process. The act of focusing on something as simple as cutting leaves from a tree allows me to be

present in my body and reflect on my mental state. Then, by inking the plant matter I have collected along with doilies, I create plate monotype backgrounds for my work. Through pressure, the imprint of the doilies and plants is transferred onto paper. The complex textures that are derived from these materials recall both the heaviness of depression and the layers of time present in the gothic works I am inspired by. These textures sit under my woodblock symbols in unique ways and change their meanings, playing their form off the composition I have already created.

My work is an attempt to offer hope and solace to individuals who struggle as I do. This project is an act of defiance, a representation of the continued fight against apathy and despair, and a recognition of the possibility to find holiness in the everyday.

Images



Maren Lamb

*Celeste Defeated*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

12"x16"



Maren Lamb

*Clara's in Fashion*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

13"x19"



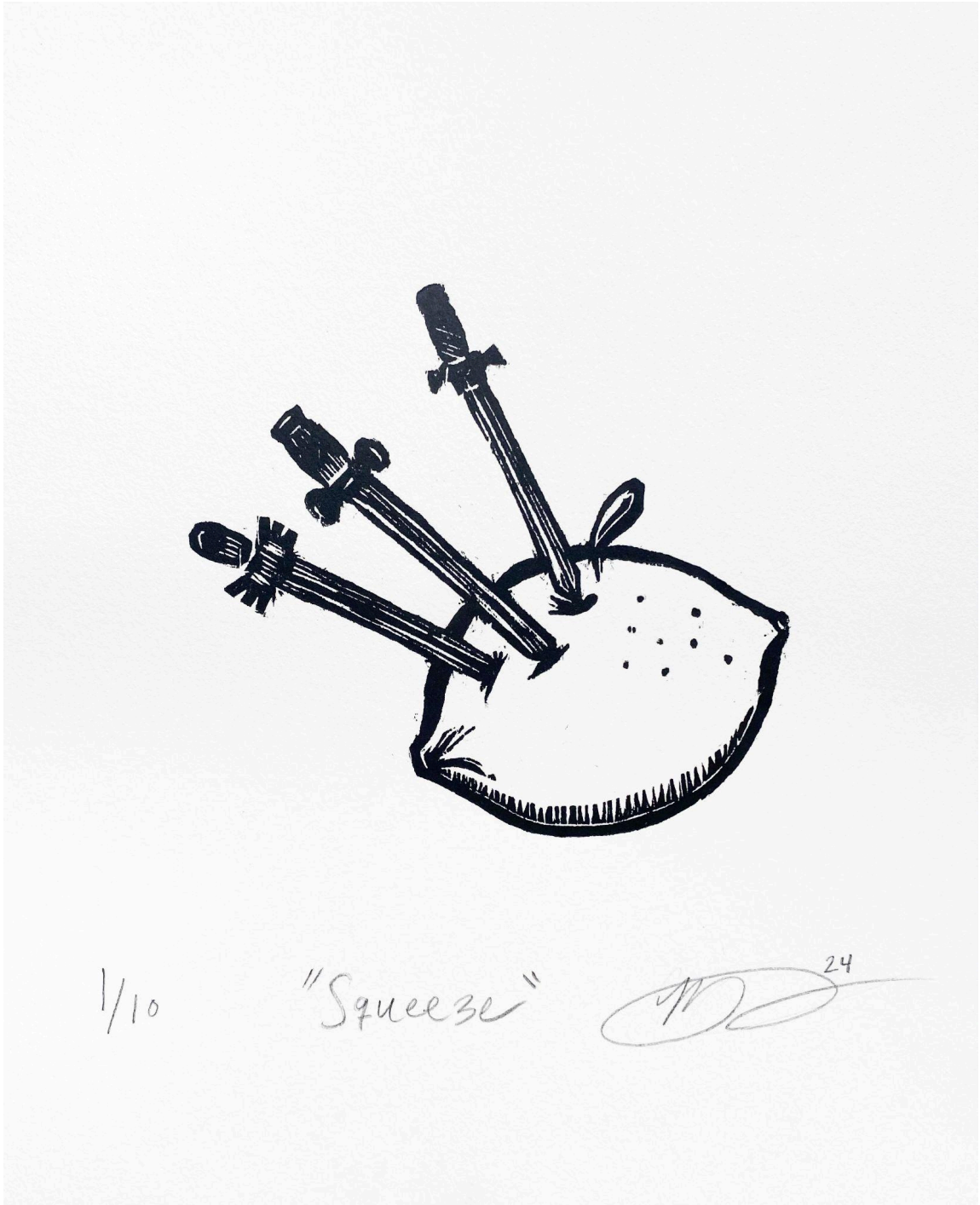


Maren Lamb

*Wilt*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

11"x14"




Maren Lamb

*Squeeze*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

8"x10"



2/10 "Something to Pray On"  24

Maren Lamb

*Something to Pray On*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

8"x10"





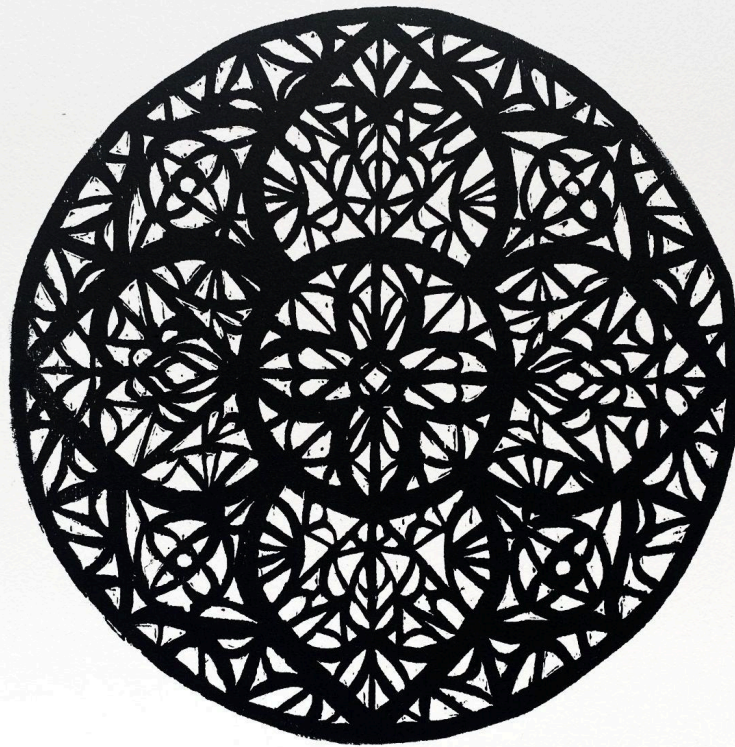
Maren Lamb


*No es Clara*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

11"x14"





2/10 "never lets in the sun" 

Maren Lamb

*Never Lets in the Sun*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

11"x14"

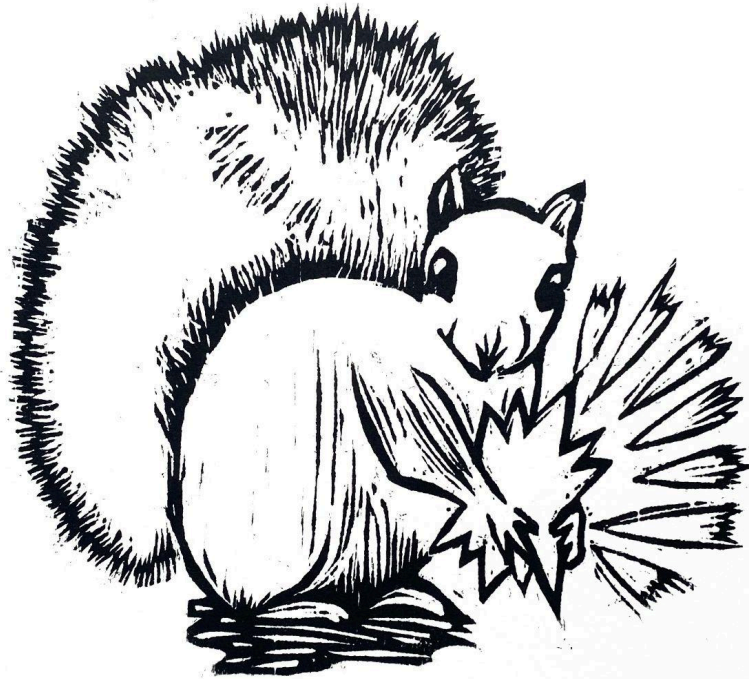



Maren Lamb

*Squeeze*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

11"x14"



4/10 "Holding the Sky"  2/1

Maren Lamb

*Holding the Sky*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

8"x10"






Maren Lamb

*Symbols of Power*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

12"x16"



10/10 "Celeste Rising (get up, get up, get up!)"  24

Maren Lamb

*Squeeze*

Woodcut on Paper, Edition of 10

13"x19"





Maren Lamb

*Reflection*

Woodcut Monoprint, Colored Pencil, and Paint Marker on Paper

25"x11"





Maren Lamb

*Pools*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"



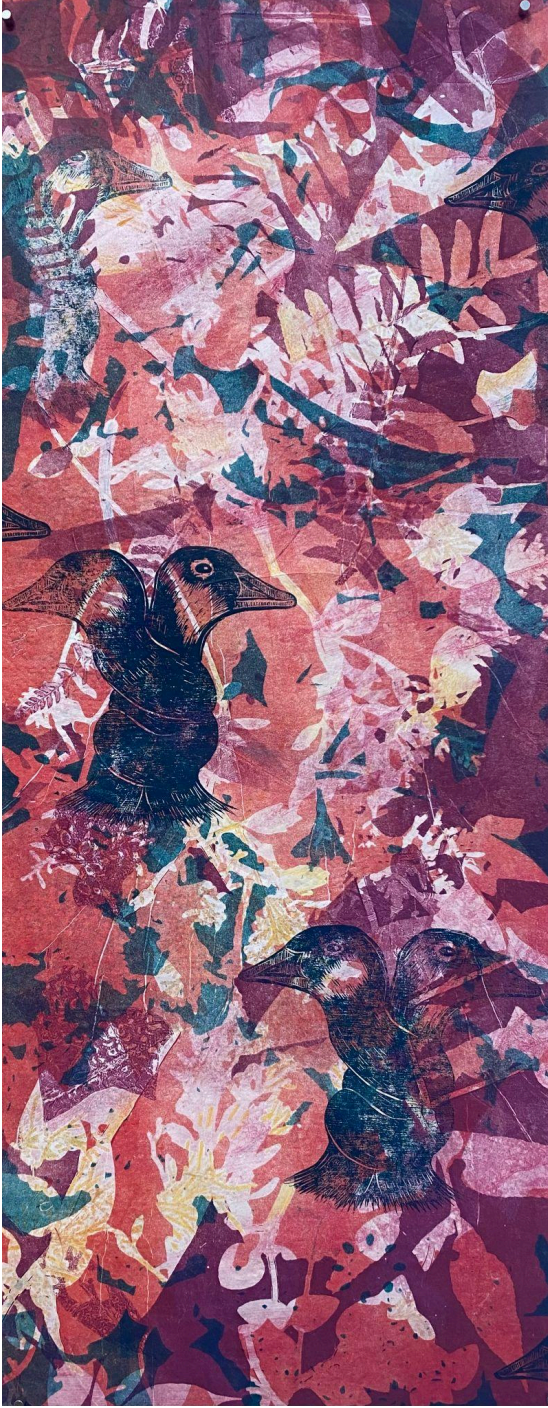
Maren Lamb

*Ignited*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*The Forest is Kind*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"



Maren Lamb

*Geese and Love*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"





Maren Lamb

*Free to Be*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Measured*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Muted*

Woodcut Monoprint and Colored Pencils on Paper

11"x14"





Maren Lamb

*Ensnaring Comforts*

Woodcut Monoprint and Colored Pencils on Paper

11"x14"





Maren Lamb

*Enemy*

Woodcut Monoprint and Colored Pencils on Paper

11"x14"





Maren Lamb

*At Home, In My Head*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Depleted*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Scorn*

Woodcut Monoprint, Colored Pencils, and Paint Marker on Paper

16"x31.5"





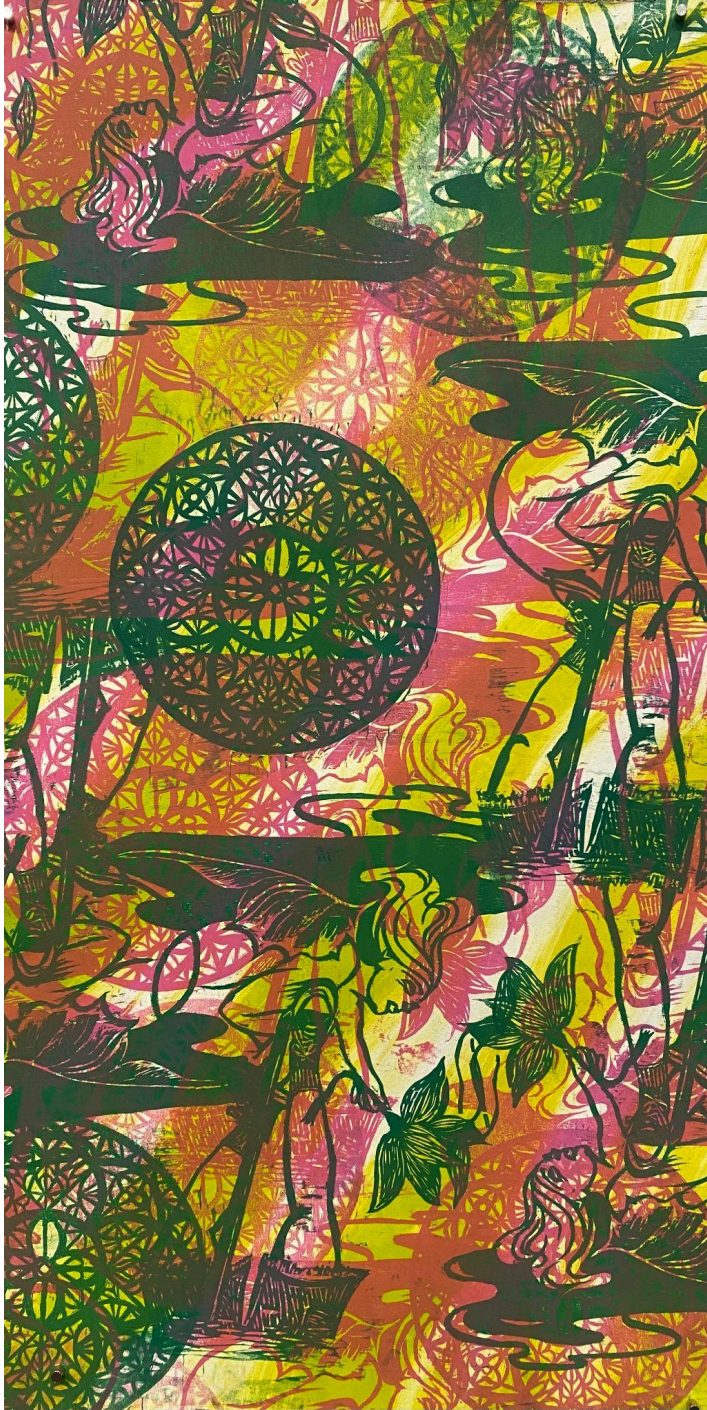
Maren Lamb

*Spent*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





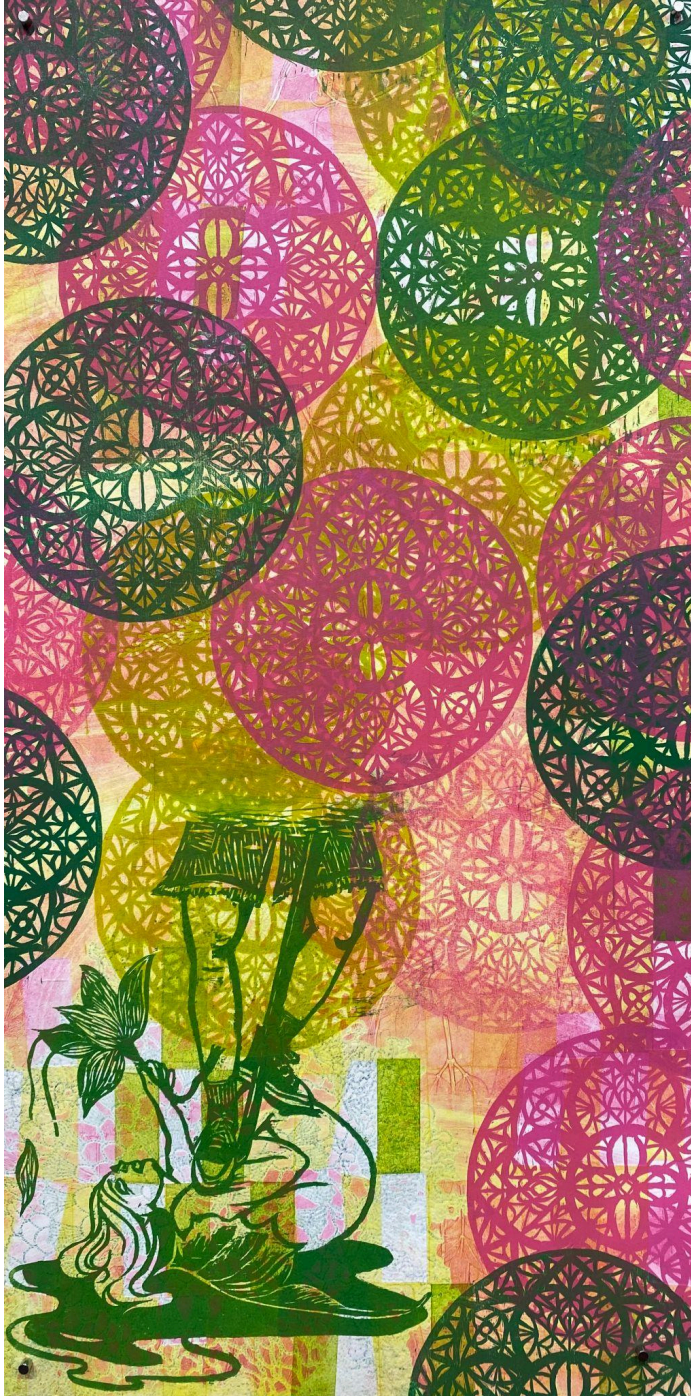
Maren Lamb

*Give up the Fight*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Celeste Defeated in Pink in Green*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"



Maren Lamb

*Buzzing, Buzzing, Buzzing*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Celeste Defeated in Yellow*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Hot Purple Shame*

Woodcut Monoprint and Colored Pencil on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*At Home, In My Head*

Woodcut Monoprint

14"x35.5"



Maren Lamb

*I'm in Here!*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"



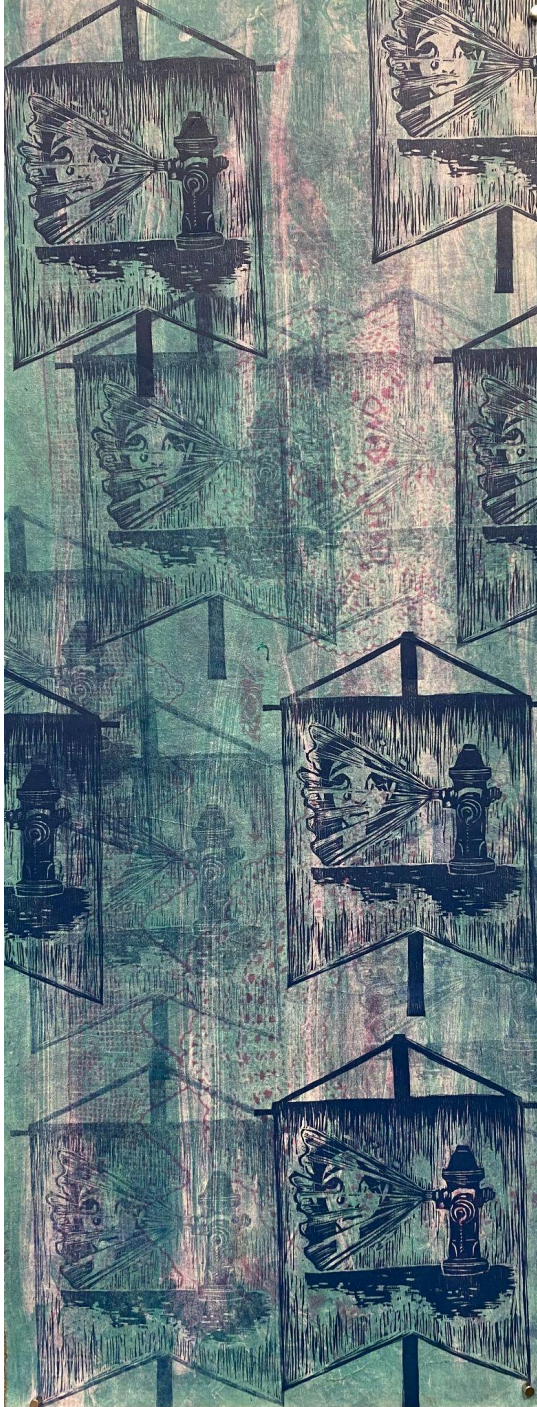


Maren Lamb

*My Stomach is Like a Split Decision*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x31.5"



Maren Lamb

*Muddy*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"





Maren Lamb

*Periwinkle Blues*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x31.5"





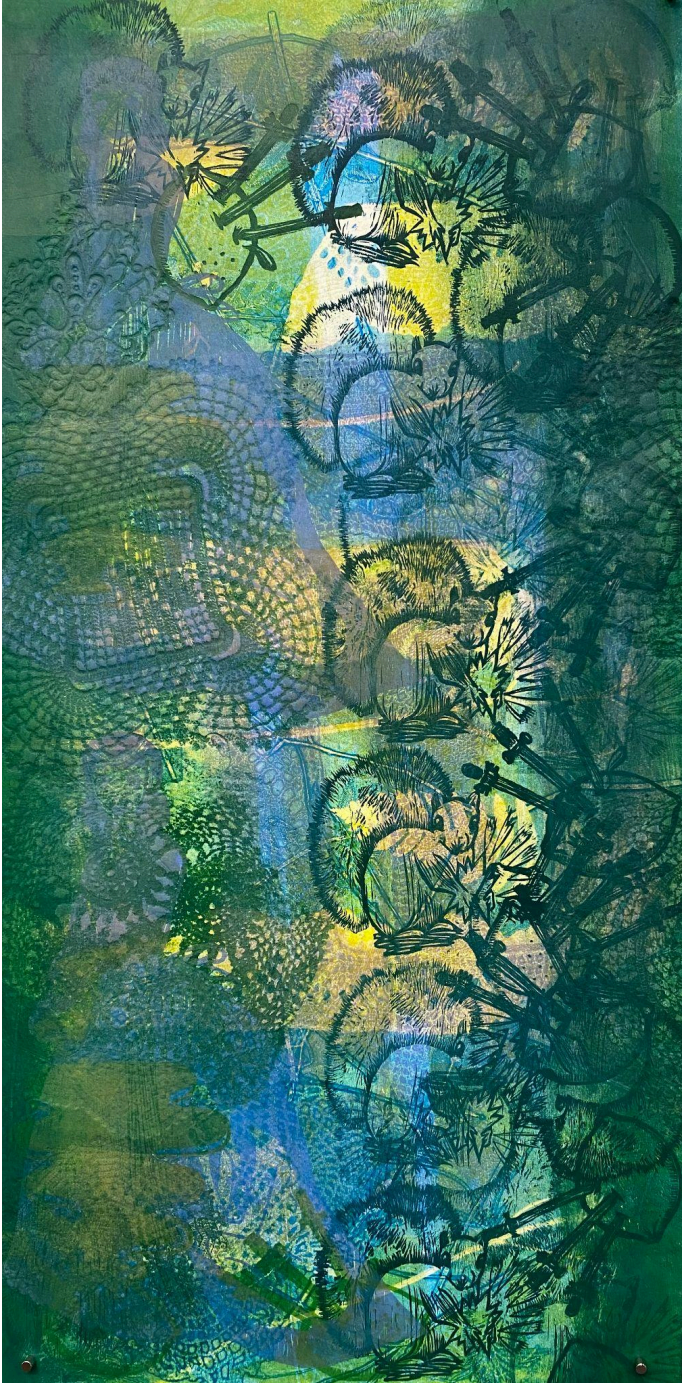
Maren Lamb

*Wishes*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Hot Purple Shame*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Wishing and Hoping*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Looking For a Reason*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"



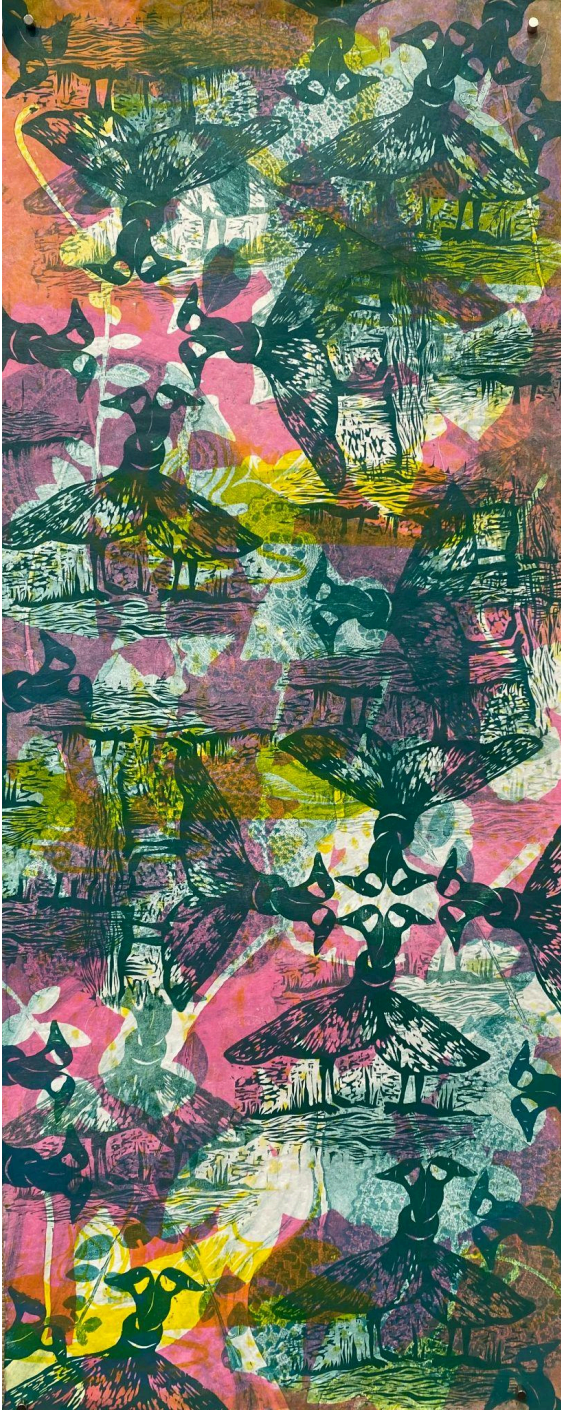


Maren Lamb

*Candy Colored Knots 1*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"



Maren Lamb

*Candy Colored Knots 2*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"





Maren Lamb

*Celestine Sunset*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"



Maren Lamb

*Azul Celeste*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"





Maren Lamb

*Lemons*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"



Maren Lamb

*Dull*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x35.5"





Maren Lamb

*Keep it Close*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"



Maren Lamb

*Steeple*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Flying is Falling*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"



Maren Lamb

*Annunciation*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*My Own Personal Angel*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x31.5"



Maren Lamb

*For Worse*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Sour Yellow Hope*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

14"x31.5"



Maren Lamb

*Checkerboard*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*I Will Listen*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

16"x31.5"





Maren Lamb

*Cool It*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

11"x14"





Maren Lamb

*Drowned*

Woodcut Monoprint on Paper

11"x14"