

EMILY GARFIELD

“Somewhereville”

Works from 2009-2012



My intricate pen and watercolor drawings are inspired by the visual language of maps, as well as the fractal similarity that cities share with biological processes such as the patterns of cells and neurons. I invent each place as I draw, thinking about clustering of neighborhoods, patterns of roads and the individual selective memory that an inhabitant would use to navigate their city. The physical materials also influence each work; the topography of watercolor paper, the force of gravity on ink, or the tensile limitations of paper all structure my drawings in the same way that a landscape influences urban growth.

I moved to Somerville three years ago after completing a BA in Visual Arts (with a focus on interdisciplinary aesthetics, particularly visual perception) and immediately jumped into making and selling artwork, particularly the imaginary aerial views of cities that I had started developing as part of my senior show. Over the last three years I've found that while the speculative cities I draw feel spontaneously and organically created, there is an unavoidable personal theme drawn from the places I've experienced -- particularly the urban landscape I explored while growing up in Manhattan but also elements of every place I've been. The body of work in this exhibition is tied together by this common compositional thread. I have also begun to explore it more explicitly in a series of experimental digital collages that combine my imaginary maps with line drawings and textures made from photos I've taken over the years. “Somewhereville” describes how my work is intended to represent everywhere and anywhere, and also makes reference to this city that is beginning to find its way into my internal map and external compositions.

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On exhibit at Bloc 11 Cafe November 15 - December 14, 2012

Artist Reception  
Sunday, December 2, 5pm-7pm

Bloc 11 Cafe -- 11 Bow Street, Somerville MA 02143 -- 617-623-0000