

Artist Statement: Laura Battle

I have spent at least the last two decades as an artist exploring the potential of geometry to offer an optically charged mental space in which to explore universal visual language. My work is informed by diagrams of the universe, mathematical configurations, codes and symbols, maps and charts of all kinds, forces in nature like the ebb and flow of water or the waxing and waning of the moon, esoteric manuscripts, and by the work of innumerable artists. I look at the work of untrained artists, of mystics, calligraphers and craftsmen. I love especially the work of Emma Kunz, Andrew Forge, Agnes Denes, Hilma af Klint, Alfred Jensen, and Paul Klee. My love of travel, can always be counted on to inspire new work.

I set out to explore connections between the art, architecture, and landscape of different cultures that transcend time and place. Arabic geometries occur in Shaker drawings, Tantric drawings from Rajasthan resemble both ancient and modern earthworks. Aspects of Renaissance diagrams of the universe seem to appear in the work of psychiatric patients in the Prinzhorn collection museum in Germany. The 18th century astronomical architecture of Jantar Mantar in Delhi and Jaipur upon close examination mirror works by Zaha Hadid. I hope to make connections between things here in the world, with those buried deep in time, and with those found in the back of ones head.

My drawing process is almost exclusively additive. Line becomes plane becomes atmosphere. I set in motion systems for accumulating lines and become hypnotized by the process of their transformation into light.