

Rena Detrixhe

- American, b.1989 in Kansas
- Lives and works in Oklahoma
- 2013 BFA in Expanded Media and Art History, University of Kansas; in 2011, she studied at the School of Visual Art, Hongik University, Seoul, South Korea
- www.renadetrixhe.com



Body of Work

Rena Detrixhe's contemplative work combines repetitive processes and collected or scavenged materials to produce large-scale objects and installations. Often utilizing natural materials, a continuing objective in her practice is to investigate the relationship between art and environment. Her recent work includes *Full Time*, 2015, a labor-intensive installation and performance with collaborator, Eli Gold, at La Esquina Gallery in Kansas City; *Rosaceae*, a 2015 wall weaving constructed of dried ornamental crabapple fruits at the Paragraph Gallery in Kansas City; and *Watershed*, a 2015 site-specific sculptural drawing made from thousands of individually formed resin droplets created for the Grand Rapids Public Museum in Grand Rapids, MI:



Artist's statement

"I am a hunter and gatherer. Many of my works begin with collections of seeds, petals, berries, or with common household refuse. Each of these objects is embedded with history and possibility. I am interested in the complicated relationship between humans and the natural world which is at times intimate and other times devastating. I am drawn to materials that hold stories from their familiar sources. My intricate constellations from these materials culminate in drawings, sculptures and site-specific installations. I study the materials until my hands develop a means to respond to them and a conversation ensues. With intense focus and repetition I participate in a meditative act, perhaps similar to domestic arts of crochet, embroidery and weaving. I am interested in how simple yet meticulous processes evoke labor and imbue my works with a sense of passing time."

Detrixhe is the recipient of numerous awards including a scholarship to attend the prestigious art school at Hongik University in Seoul, South Korea, the Brosseau Award from the Spencer Museum of Art in Lawrence, KS, and a studio residency with Charlotte Street Foundation in Kansas City, MO. Detrixhe was one of twelve artists selected for the inaugural year of the Tulsa Artist Fellowship. The Kansas City Art Institute Crossroads Gallery featured her largest *Red Dirt Rug* to date, on display September 1 – October 28. In October 2017, Detrixhe received both the Public Vote and Juried Category Awards in the Time-Based category of the ArtPrize Awards (an international art competition held in Grand Rapids, MI) for her enormous *Red Dirt Rug Monument* (25' x 40'). She creates the works on site, and then sweeps it up at the end of the show.