

Susan White

- American, b. 1949 in Dublin, GA
- Based in Kansas City, MO
- 1971 BA Drury University, Springfield, MO; 1996 BFA, KCAI; studied at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
- www.susan-white.com



Body of Work

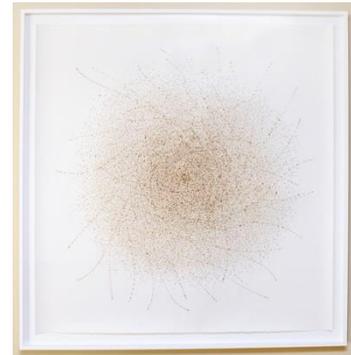
Susan White works primarily in three forms: burn drawings, thorn works, and video / installation. White's thorn works, constructions made from thorns of the honey locust tree, act as three-dimensional crosshatch drawings wherein each mark responds to the one that came before it. She stated in her 2017 book *Thorn Works*: "The thorns of the honey locust tree grow up and around the trunk to protect the bark from predators. They date from the Pleistocene Era and can grow to be as long as 18 inches or more. When they are young they are pliable and a lovely olive green color. As they mature they turn a rich mahogany, still maintaining some of their flexibility. As age sets in they dry and take on a gray or slate color and in many cases they become host to lichens that cover their surface with blue green and golden textures."

In planning her installation at the Nerman for *Ephemera*, she wrote: "Frustrated, angry, crying out... I have a work in progress in the studio which suggests/addresses, in an abstract way, the polarization within the country. A gaggle of dense red thorns on one side, a gaggle of dense blue thorns on the other. . . .I'm thickening this up considerably and still working with it to express a sense of entanglement and obfuscation when looking from one side to the other. . . .I have an ongoing interest in developing a white thorn wall installation that evolves from the piece at the Daum. I find the Kansas skyline to be expansive and renewing in these fraught times. I have been experimenting with creating a white sky piece with overtones of that beautiful purple/gray that plays around the edges of the clouds in evening. I envision this piece providing a respite from the fury that so many of us feel."

In 2010, White completed a Youkobo Artist Residency in Tokyo, Japan with the Lighton International Artist Exchange Program. Her work is included in the corporate collections of Hallmark Cards, Inc.; H&R Block; the JE Dunn Company Collection; and Sprint-Nextel in Kansas City, MO, as well as numerous private collections. In 2015 her work was displayed at the Daum Museum in Sedalia along with Miki Baird and Garry Noland, in a group show titled *Kindred Virtuositities*. Her wall work was titled *Floating Between the Real and the Ideal*:



Daum Museum Installation, 2015,
Floating Between the Real and the Ideal



Arrowhead art collection, *Bale*, 2014, Pyrograph on paper