

The journal drawings began in December 1997 as handwritten journal entries on sheets of paper folded into sections. Gradually, they became layered over with an intense accumulation of repeated coiling and uncoiling brush and ink images. These worm/pearl necklace shapes demanded color – unlike the sepia, black and gray of a previous series. With each day came the date in precise 2H pencil lead. With each date something – usually a single thought or line of conversation, an image or sound, maybe a dream or a memory triggered by a smell – crystallized as something that must be recorded or would be lost forever in the flotsam and jetsam stream of distractions that make up daily life. The drawings span a year's time.

This chronicling of time became an interest in my bookworks. The series of 12 books (one for each month) began with several existing books: *March 1994*, *October 1994*, and *Green April* (1996). The idea of a book opens up many possibilities. Structures, materials and processes vary according to the conceptual needs of each piece.

This work is about the mute eloquence of the ordinary. The things that we may use, pass by or experience everyday. Gloves, rain, gates, fences, schoolbooks, fallen leaves, and the names of the months; each is functional. Each can also connect us to something larger – history, the elements, human strength and fragility. It is also about watching – watching for signs of life continuing, for patterns forming, for possible clues to meaning in these changes. It is about the attention and courage necessary to maintain a lifetime of faithful observation.

Kate Kern

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