

Nona Hershey

Viewpoints - Soprafina Gallery - 2018

Artist Statement

Since the beginning of time, clouds have represented uncertainty; the wrath of gods; the beneficent containers of rain; the boundary between this world, and the mystery beyond. Clouds have caused and witnessed instability and power within and beyond their control.

We instantaneously analyze, pixelate, and quantify the components of our daily experiences, transforming occurrences into digital memory. Although we can't *see* the proliferation of signals and techno-chatter that our devices emit, their energy is palpable. We don't yet know the full extent to which that interference affects us, or our environment. In my work I am juxtaposing what I imagine to be the invisible activity of those signals, with naturalistic clouds. My hope is that despite our ever-increasing urge to connect immediately with things and places around us, we don't forfeit time spent on the humble meditation of the sublime—those enigmatic sources larger than ourselves: wind, light, and air.

In my work, I want to evoke our sense of wonder at the vastness of the sky and at the same time, reference the dichotomous aspect of illusion. By bringing information right up to the surface, I want to point out the artificiality of the picture plane and simultaneously, enhance the illusion of ever shifting clouds behind the pictorial frame.

From a distance my clouds appear meticulously rendered yet they are actually loose, abstract markings made with graphite powder. My drawing tools are cotton balls imbued with differing amounts of graphite powder which I rub on to the paper slowly. Touch is paramount. This gradual, incremental process is an ongoing inventive dialogue as tones become shapes and shapes become clouds, animated by the character of their edges.