

ARTIST STATEMENT

Most central to my work are ideas drawn from my fascination for the particularities of human experience and consciousness, our place in the world and our relation to our surroundings. These enquiries tend towards questioning the purpose of our existence and activities when contrasted against the universal vastness.

My recent drawing series, *Cogitographes*, is formed of imaginary mountains traced with ink on paper. They are not planned or visualized in advance. Rather, they are made through a spontaneous process of mark-making, which I control only enough to give it the shape of this symbolic representation of my roots and early memories. As their name refers to, I think of these drawings as recorded traces of my cognitive activity. They allude to absence and nostalgia. Their imprecision and unreal nature is a reminder of the tenuousness and imperfection of memory. They are anchored traces of temporary activities, a scattered grasp on time passing.

The spontaneous evolution of this project has been towards abstraction as my focus and concerns have drifted in a new direction over time. In fact, I have become more interested in the creative process itself. Recognizable mountains have consequently become topographical map-like figures before turning into sound-like dynamic fluctuations. The original thoughts and feelings giving impulse to my drawings are alienated from me at the moment I trace them on paper and thus given autonomy. The interpretation of their conceptual quality is therefore submitted even more freely to the viewer's projection.

I intend to keep developing my drawing series until it reaches its limits and evolves into something else. I also wish to develop new projects exploring the phenomenon of abstraction, making processes and mark-making while experimenting with other media such as sculpture, audio-visual supports and printmaking.

In addition, I am currently working on two collaborative projects. The first one is developing along with a Peruvian artist and musician based in London. It should culminate into a performance mixing drawing and experimental music. The other one is a partnership with a Danish astrophysicist based in Copenhagen. It aims at offering an artistic interpretation of the particular structure and immensity of the cosmos, based on our exploration of scientific data as well as our philosophical discussions.

My work is practice-based. This means it relies on the making process itself to evolve, through the discoveries and accidents resulting from it. Moreover, it is always situated in its spatial and temporal environment. In fact, my works - especially those made in audio-visual or 3D media - take inspiration from their material, architectural, cultural or sensory surroundings. They are always inscribed in a context of time, either historical, universal or related to my own temporality.

My projects also attempt to understand the function of art in our contemporary world and to place my work within a multidisciplinary dialogue. They aim at confronting the viewer with their own conceptual positions in order to provoke a reflexion concerned with the context in which my work is situated.

Valentine E. Bossert, 2017