

News Release

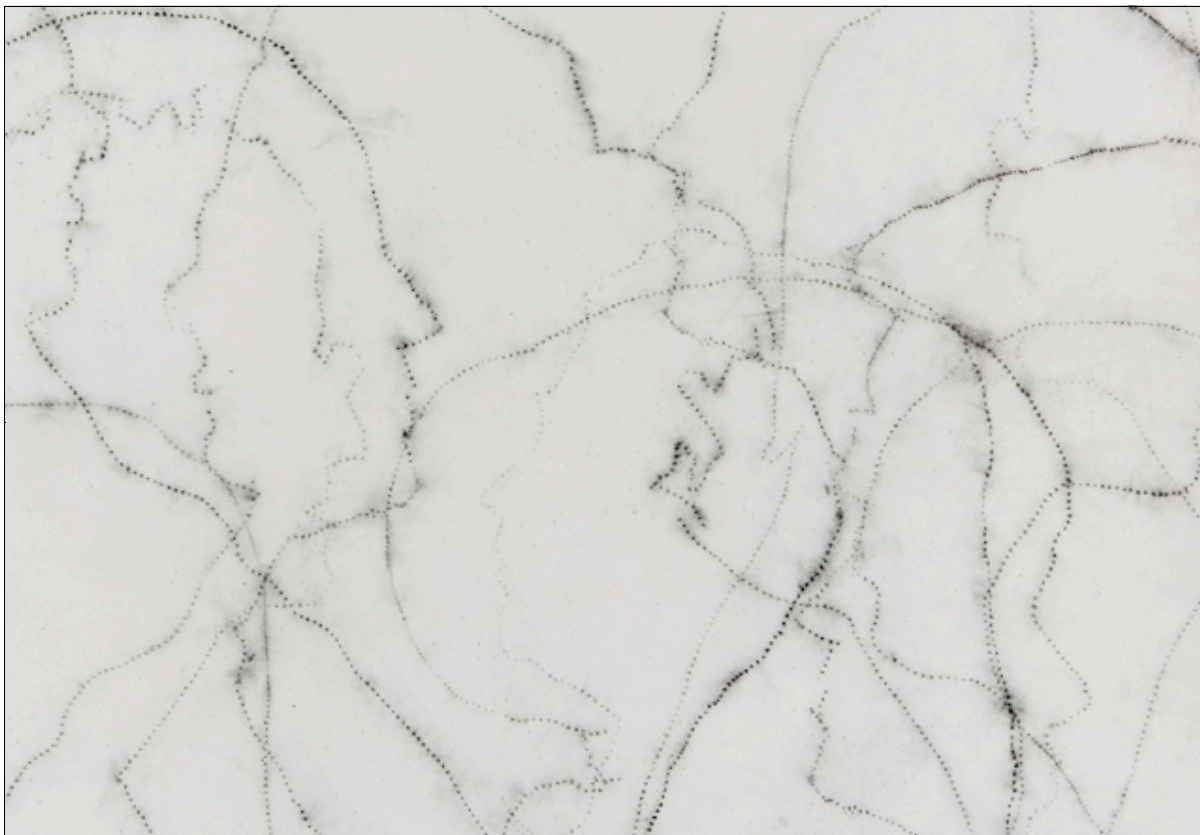
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RACHEL BREEN: LOCAL TOPOGRAPHY

Portals on Western Exhibition Program

April 12 – June 13, 2010

The third exhibition in the Portals on Western exhibition program features the artist and work of Rachel Breen. The exhibition, *Local Topography*, is an installation with 30 silhouettes of people who live, work, and go to school in the neighborhood. The corner of Selby and Western avenues is a vibrant microcosm of the city of St. Paul—an intersection of race, class, culture, age, origin, history, and ethnicity. Breen’s approach was to ask: How do we understand community?

COLLEGE of VISUAL ARTS

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Breen shares in her artist statement:

“My process involved meeting people and drawing their silhouettes, then running those drawings through an unthreaded sewing machine. The resulting patterns of holes, created by the needle, allowed me to use them as stencils. I sifted powdered charcoal through the stencil holes onto windows and walls. Here, I’m also “pouring” light through the holes. I overlap and combine these images to create anew—a human map, topography of the neighborhood, a terrain of community.”

“Sewing is an age-old practice that connects materials for protection, decoration, and comfort. The use of a mark that originates from sewing acknowledges our yearning for cohesion and attachment. I like to think this richness can be suggested visually through the mark that comes from my sewing machine, referencing the loose yet essential ways in which a community is “held together.” The ambiguity of the mark symbolizes how connection is possible though not certain, which I intend as an expression of hope and as recognition of the need for human action to make true, meaningful connections. “

PORTALS ON WESTERN

Located in a new public art exhibition space within the windows and storefront of CVA’s Gallery Building, this exhibition series presents annual installations by Minnesota artists. The series began in the fall of 2009.

CVA Gallery

173 Western Avenue North
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Gallery Hours

Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Thursdays 12:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Image Credit

Rachel Breen, 2010

CVA GALLERY PROGRAMMING

The CVA gallery program has a comprehensive schedule that balances both academic and community exhibitions, represents work from all disciplines at the college, serves emerging and established artists, and presents local, regional, and national work.

THE COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS

CVA is a private, accredited, four-year college of art and design offering a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in fine arts, graphic design, illustration, interdisciplinary design studies, and photography. Founded in 1924, the college is located in the thriving urban residential areas of historic Summit Avenue and Ramsey Hill in Saint Paul, Minnesota. www.cva.edu.