



Glyphology

works on paper by Adria Arch

Several years ago I looked through some of my son's discarded high school notebooks hoping to catch a glimpse of the inner workings of the young man. I discovered pages of exquisite, tiny geometrical drawings sandwiched between lecture notes, sprinkled in margins and crammed edge to edge on back covers. Created in the unselfconscious state typical of doodlers, the shapes seemed to represent a secret, indecipherable language. I realized that they could be cryptograms, diagrams, hieroglyphs, pictographs, algebraic formulas or an undiscovered cuneiform script. I started incorporating these iconic shapes as compositional elements that direct the viewer deep into the heart of my galaxy-like paintings on paper. The viewer can walk into a dimensional space where the symbols spin, float, twirl; mysterious and beckoning. Some of my paintings are doors, others windows. They are all portals. I continue to use these symbols because they are a joyous and mysterious language that is somehow both deeply personal and universal.

Adria Arch's work is represented in corporate and private collections including DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Boston Public Library, Library of Congress, Fidelity Corporation, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and Hale and Dorr, LLP. Her studio is located in Arlington, Massachusetts. She is a member of the Bromfield Gallery in Boston's South End.

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Front: detail from **Black Glyph Column**, 2008, 120" x 29" acrylic and metallic ink, collage on paper