Taryn McMahon WATERSHED

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MCDONOUGH MUSEUM

ARTIST STATEMENT

Watershed explores the entanglements between the human and nonhuman through Northeast Ohio's waterways. I present everyday landscapes, such as the Cuyahoga River and surrounding creeks, as compelling ecological sites that reveal the underlying fantasies and overlooked realities shaping how we interact with the natural world.

The monotypes and installations layer silhouettes of objects found on the banks of the Cuyahoga River and Breakneck Creek, both part of the Middle Cuyahoga Watershed. These highly layered monotypes are created from an index of silhouettes that are endlessly reprinted and recombined as a metaphor for an evolving and limitless ecology. *Impressions (Cuyahoga River)* and *Impressions (Breakneck Creek)* are printed canvas banners of enlarged cyanotypes made from direct exposures of the same found objects. Combining both naturally occurring and human-generated items creates printed environments that point to the current state of ecology as one in which the human and nonhuman have become conflated and intertwined in the face of unprecedented ecological change.

-Taryn McMahon





Impressions (Breakneck Creek) 2023 Pigment print on canvas 160 x 120 x 24 inches

BEYOND BREAKNECK CREEK Michael Loderstedt

Treading in footsteps of pioneer photographer Anna Atkins, Taryn McMahon collects and investigates the wetlands of Breakneck Creek behind her home as both witness and visual archivist. From stenciled images of flora and fauna, manmade detritus that inhabit a modern ecosystem, she weaves layered abstractions of printed surfaces, delicate and transparent screens that envelop a subtle interplay of colored ink and paper. Her cyanotypes, liberated from actual-scale through digital output, provide almost tent-like shelters for viewers to walk in and through. In *Watershed*, we are reminded of our bodies, small and large, a grand projection of terrain that drains slowly from source, and a societal moment between action and catastrophe.

Michael Loderstedt is an artist, author, and Professor Emeritus of Kent State University. His 2023 book of poetry *Why We Fished*, published by Redhawk Publications, explores themes of childhood, family, and our relationship to nature. He is the recipient of a 2020 Ohio Arts Council Fellowship in Literature.





Watershed (exhibition view) 2023





Opposite: Impressions (Cuyahoga River) 2022 Pigment print on canvas 160 x 120 x 24 inches Above: Impressions (Cuyahoga River) (detail)





Left to right: A Series of Entanglements 9 2021 Monotype and chine collé on paper 30 x 22 inches

A Series of Entanglements 8 2021 Monotype and chine collé on paper 30 x 22 inches

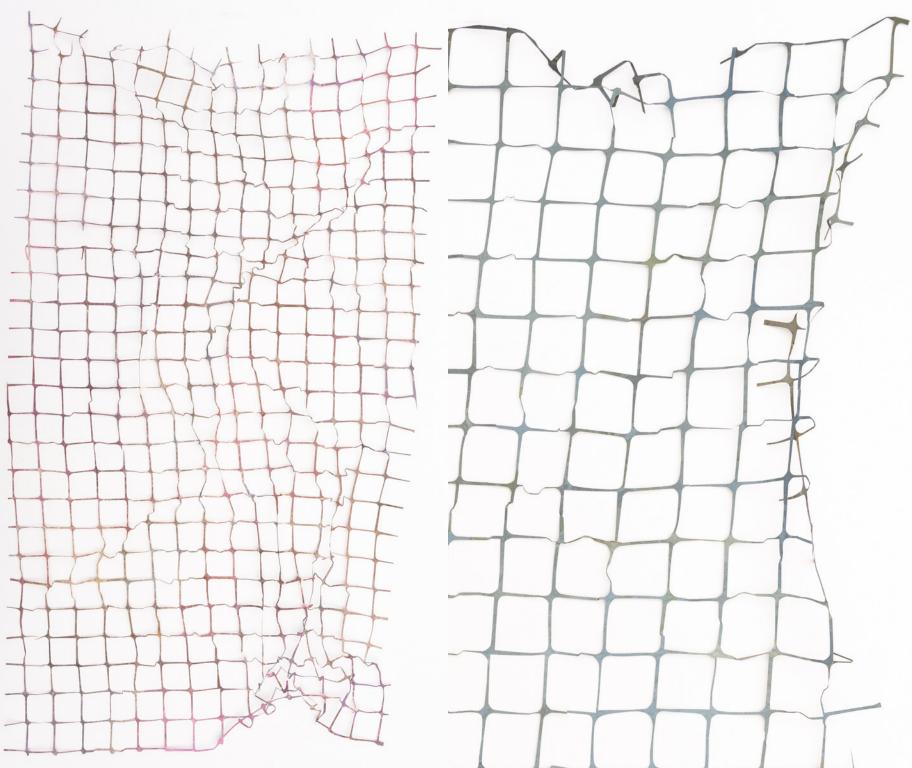


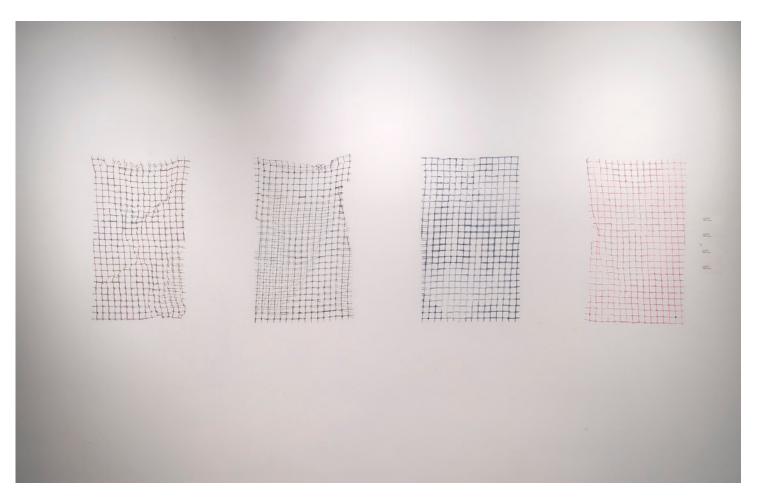
A Series of Entanglements 6 2021 Monotype and graphite on paper 30 x 22 inches



Below, left to right: A Series of Entanglements 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 2021 Monotype on paper 30 x 22 inches each Opposite: A Series of Entanglements 6 (detail)





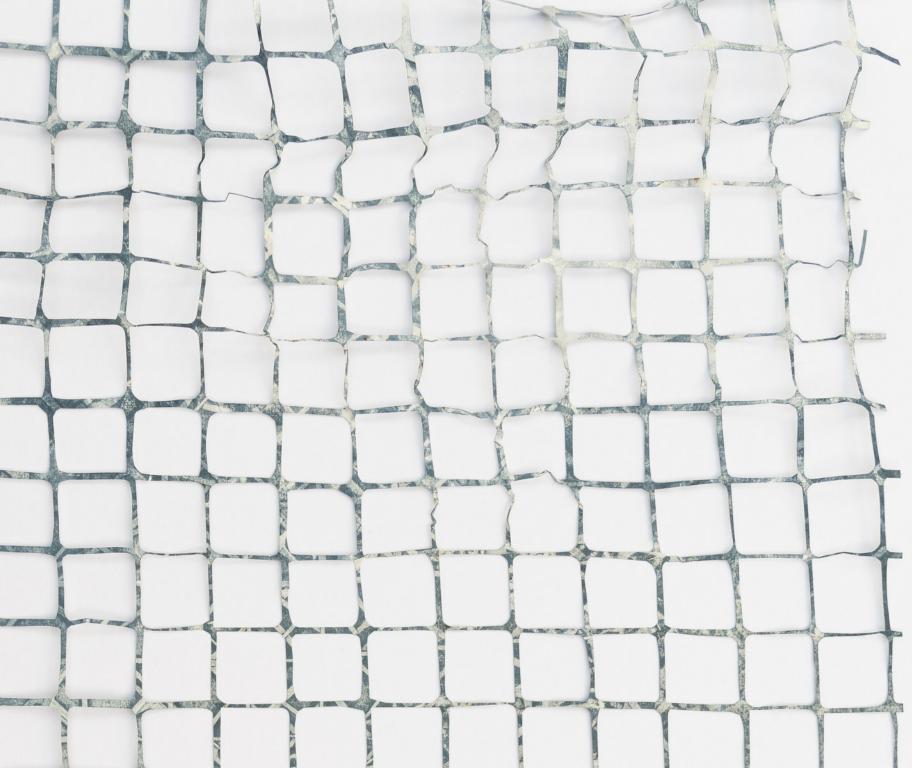


Above, installation view, left to right: *Erosion 01, 02, 03*, and *04* 2021 Laser cut monotype 30 x 18 inches each Opposite, left to right: *Erosion 01* and *Erosion 02* (detail)

BIO

Taryn McMahon grew up in New Jersey and received her BFA from The Pennsylvania State University. She attended the University of Iowa, where she received an MA and MFA in Printmaking. McMahon has received numerous awards for her work including an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Arts Challenge, Puffin Foundation grant, and Denbo Fellowship. Her work has been shown at venues such as The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA, the International Print Center, New York, NY, and Ortega y Gasset Projects, Brooklyn, NY, among many others. She currently serves as an Associate Professor of Studio Art and co-area head of Print Media and Photography at Kent State University in Kent, OH.

Opposite: *Erosion 03* (detail)



EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

Impressions (Cuyahoga River) 2022 Pigment print on canvas 160 x 120 x 24 inches

Impressions (Breakneck Creek) 2023 Pigment print on canvas 160 x 120 x 24 inches

A Series of Entanglements 1 2021 Monotype on paper 30 x 22 inches

A Series of Entanglements 2 2021 Monotype and chine collé on paper 30 x 22 inches A Series of Entanglements 3 2021 Monotype on paper 30 x 22 inches

A Series of Entanglements 4 2021 Monotype on paper 30 x 22 inches

A Series of Entanglements 5 2021 Monotype on paper 30 x 22 inches

A Series of Entanglements 6 2021 Monotype and graphite on paper 30 x 22 inches A Series of Entanglements 8 2021 Monotype and chine collé on paper 30 x 22 inches

A Series of Entanglements 9 2021 Monotype and chine collé on paper 30 x 22 inches

Erosion 01 2021 Laser cut monotype 30 x 18 inches

Erosion 02 2021 Laser cut monotype 30 x 18 inches Erosion 03 2021 Laser cut monotype 30 x 18 inches

Erosion 04 2021 Laser cut monotype 30 x 18 inches Published on the occasion of the exhibition *Watershed* by Taryn McMahon, January 20 - March 4, 2023, at the McDonough Museum of Art at Youngstown State University.

The McDonough Museum offers a range of dynamic programs that include exhibitions, installations, performances, and lectures inviting campus and community members to discover and explore meaning in contemporary art.

ysu.edu/mcdonough-museum

Claudia Berlinski, Director

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Cover Image: Impressions (Cuyahoga River) (detail)

