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Cover Artist’s Statement

Melissa Bleecker

Melissa Bleecker is an artist working in sculpture, drawing, and printmaking to address how representations of the world are constructed and disseminated through visual means. Compiling images in response to diagrammatic renderings found in educational texts, she reconfigures commonly accepted models to present them in a new light.

Drawing from genealogical, phylogenetic and family tree graphics to reflect upon the interconnection present both in human schematics as well as biological processes. By observing these smallest visual elements devoid of linguistic identifiers, these complex systems are opened-up for contemplation.

As a girl, Bleecker reflected upon the social constructs and expectations surrounding her name and identity. What it means to take on the name of another and how that impacts one's relationship to the world. Much of the process of visually charting these connections stem from a desire to question and challenge the antiquated gender roles presented to her and many young women.
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