

Vanessa Murray
Transmutations
Upfront Gallery
September 6-28, 2019

Artist Statement:

Over expanses of time, all things physically change form and external forces create topographies around us. When a cave forms over ages, an effect is created in which the relationship between inside and outside, positive and negative, and past and present begin to come into question.

In this body of work, negative spaces present as cavities. These pockets of space have developed from my fascination with caves, chasms and the way crevices or folds behave. My interests include any kind of hole, split or fracture, whether seen in an image of an arctic ice sheet or an open wound. Openings are instinctively mysterious, having the potential to create various levels of unease or anxiety. These moments in my work become contemplations on mortality and the unknown.

Both my paintings and sculptures are absorbed in conveying a sense of slow movement, a state of transformation that is taking shape. My process is driven by the infinitely complex relationship between positive form and negative space. It's a dynamic relationship that is never constant, but rather fluid and changeable. Movement and change occur continuously around us, but it's the imperceptible shifts that are inspiration for the work in this show.

Artist Biography:

Vanessa Murray is a painter and mixed media artist based in Carrboro, North Carolina. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art from UNC Chapel Hill in 2017 and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2005. She was recently a Regional Emerging Artist in Residence at Artspace in Raleigh and is currently a studio artist at Attic 506 in Chapel Hill. Murray has had solo exhibitions at The Durham Art Guild, UNC Chapel Hill's Allcott Gallery, the Gutter Box Gallery in Raleigh and the Contemporary Art Workshop in Chicago.