Mary V Marsh

mvmarsh.com

My work explores the changing technologies of communication through a lens of personal experience and anxiety. Prints, artist's books and installations look at how information is delivered and how it is received and accessed. Each new format of delivery transforms our thinking and presents new challenges. I question my own reactions and what remains as emotional memory.

During the pandemic I began photographing cell towers that are disguised as trees. Using my father’s film cameras, I employ the analog process to think about the digital environment. The faux trees exemplify our need for connection everywhere at all times, and satisfy our desire for the infrastructure to be invisible. Camouflaged to blend in, the fake trees are silent witnesses to our movements and interactions. I am thinking about data mining and how we allow the collection and sale of personal data to be used to manipulate our attention, and about the exponentially increasing use of power to run data farms to store information, important and trivial alike. The dense layers and intimate size and shape of the prints reflect a cell phone worldview. Photographic negatives are scanned to make intaglio prints of the trees, presenting them as historical icons of our times. Incorporating polymer plate letterpress text messages and screenshots imagines how our missives are moving through the landscape and suggests how our travels and attention are transformed into digital currency.