

65GRAND

ARTIST STATEMENT

Sliver brings together collages from the *Study of Thorns* series. These works reflect on the improvisational nature of a sketch and a thorn's function to protect a plant from harm. Over the course of this past year, creating these works increasingly became about preservation. Growth contrasted with the intense sadness of this moment became a focus that informed their construction. The materials of each collage bring together fragments from prior works along with scraps from exchanges with fellow artists. By repurposing these remnants, each work gathers together various processes that echo the idea of an ecosystem while inviting chance and new associations to take place. Resuscitating the tiniest sliver of scrap was a repeated gesture that helped me meditate on this difficult time in history. These slight gestures formed the foundation for configurations that evolved into more open and interwoven forms with a dynamic of inter-species plant behavior revealing aspects of both fragility and resilience.

Observing the slow transition of Spring with the dormant trees and other plants returning to life again in contrast with the starkness of the news, prompted me to consider the complex relationship plants have to light and one another. Vines often grow in the shadows to locate trunks, or other structures they can then climb on to. The roots of trees deep underground connect to form a supportive network. These intertwined and entangled plant forms, from which my works draw inspiration, rely on their adaptive abilities to find support in a challenging world.

HOLLY CAHILL