

The Absolute Way of Things

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Ink on Paper - linocuts
Installation

"The square root of half a number of bees, and also eight-ninths of the whole, alighted on the jasmines, and a female buzzed responsive to the hum of the male inclosed at night in a water-lily. O, beautiful damsel, tell me the number of bees."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1807-82

The beehive is an example of the absolute way of things. Each hive exists and functions with no changes, no creativity, no going their own direction. It is the massive amount of organization in the hive that is explored in the repetition, the patterns and the sensory input.

The absolute way of things is fragile in its need for understanding from the world surrounding it. Bees are disappearing in vast numbers around the world. Is this cause for concern that our way of things is about to change? Have we done irreparable damage that cannot be reversed? Is the bee a thermometer with which we measure our impact, or lack of understanding?

The beehive hums with activity, controlling temperature, humidity and a vast number of other factors by working as a team. When the hive is functioning well these processes are natural, easy and beautiful. Just as in human interaction, when we give, take, forgive, understand, and empathize, the world functions in a smooth and beautiful way. Move one of these to the polar opposite and the hum of the world changes dramatically.

The intricacy with which bees create their home is a marvel and a wonder. Specialist bees work in various areas with an innate understanding of their job when they are born. It is this understanding of their place in the world that is fascinating, as humans often spend years discovering where to live, what they want to be, and then shift and change, sometimes often and sometimes dramatically.