

“Art,” G.K. Chesterton writes, “is the signature of man” (*The Everlasting Man*). Man is certainly rational, but he is also creative; indeed, his rationality is best displayed in his creativity. The greatest works of art, which pursue truth through beauty, are expressions of man’s reasoned creativity, and—like those of philosophy, theology, politics, and literature—engage enduring questions of the Western tradition. The Braniff Art Program is dedicated both to “the process of creating art and [to] sound critical thinking”—a mission which accords with the whole Braniff Graduate School in its commitment to exploring truth, extending that exploration by approaching truth through the creation of revelatory images. As an extension of the Braniff journal’s multi-disciplinary approach, the editors of *Ramify* are pleased to include, for the first time, two works of visual art.



Sarah Francis, *Lake Grapevine*, 2011, Ink on cotton with coffee, screenprint, 24.5" x 18.5"

Sarah Francis

*Lake Grapevine*, 2011

Ink on cotton with coffee

Screenprint

24.5" x 18.5"

In my work I attempt to highlight the subtleties of the organic world that often go unnoticed or become lost. These details come in the form of textures of mosses or barks, patterns found in the way a river carves out the land, rainbows that are found when oil sits on water. I strive for viewers to notice and appreciate the minute details and intricacies in my work and the world around them. My work explores the world I live in and the different paths I take as I search for beauty and intimacy. This particular piece is a map of a place that I frequent now and then. I feel that to truly remember a place is somehow to *miss* it, to *yearn* for it, to have your heart ache for it and feel pulled there constantly. The maps that I create are maps of my memories.

The mediums used in my works are all natural—coming from the earth, nothing synthetic. Again, these materials reflect my love for the organic.