

My sculpture, installation, drawings and events celebrate caretaking, collaboration, labor, and change. I often use ephemeral materials to call attention to our mortality and be low impact to a site. Pre-covid, I worked collaboratively with passersby to create large drawings in bird seed on the ground. As people entered the drawing, their attention would either add or erase the created patterns and images. This notion of flux and the possible unknown influence of one person on a grand scale is what intrigues me about collaborative and temporary work. I passively ask for all involved to be steward of a shared creation.

In my sculptures and video works, family dynamics and familiar connections become material. Powdered chalk patterns on the ground become as vibrant, colorful, fragile and exposed as my grandmother in a nursing home during the pandemic. A cast glass premie onesie in a locked cabinet speaks to the isolation of a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit parent.

With my objects and events I hope to inspire viewers and participants to embrace the present moment and attend to caretaking for themselves, each other and our world.

-Jessica Witte