



Fire series (2022)

The *Fire series* was made in the winter of 2022 during the annual “Calling the Rain” residency at a farm in Maine with my teacher Laura Stelmok. While there, 7 large fires were scheduled to take place on the property, following the careful and meticulous thinning of a nearby forest to allow proper growth and light for the trees and animals.

Sitting as active witness to the massive fires over a series of days, I completed the *Fire series*. During the first fire, I worked with red earth pigment on each of the 7 large pieces of paper. I sat in the snow, warmed by the heat of the fire, as large branches and sticks were piled on. Internally, I came as close as possible to the flames, learning from them, attempting to make a mark that would honor the constant movement and the care that went into the ignition.

The next morning, I visited the charcoal remains of the burn pile. A large beautiful black circle remained in the white snow-covered landscape. I was awestruck by its beauty! It looked like a huge hole in the ground, more stunning than anything I could ever make. I felt a pull to work inside this black opening where the fire had burned high and wide the night before.



I received permission from those who were governing the fires to work inside the charcoal circle. Over the next days, I completed each drawing in the corresponding charcoal pit of the 7 fires, simultaneously in the presence of the next fire burning. The charcoal from each of the 7 pits was used for each of the 7 drawings.

In addition to brush and branches, I threw a brick into each fire. As the fire burned, the brick sunk to the bottom of the charcoal pit and remained once everything was reduced to ash and char. The brick became like an anchor for me, focusing me on both the center and root of the fire, and connecting me to the burning within myself.



On the last day, a small fire was lit by Laura Stelmok, not far from the 3 remaining pits in which I was working. Within me, that small fire remains lit.

The [last drawing in the series](#) is the only one that includes any kind of specific imagery (besides fire/flames): It contains an entrance, an image I have been exploring since 2020.

**Images of the 7 *Fire* paintings can be found [here](#).
For more information or to purchase any of the *Fire* drawings, contact [Pulp Gallery](#).**

