

ANTHONY CARLTON COOKE

ARTIST STATEMENT

Using traditional methods such as dip pen drawing or relief printmaking and working on a small scale, I strive to reclaim the visual, aural, and tactile intimacy of the artistic process. The sound of a dip pen scratching into paper or a gauge carving a linoleum block encourages spontaneous hand motions that leave discernible traces of my practice. The resulting unplanned, expressive linework and textures, contrasted against areas of high detail, inspire a sense of discovery in the viewer.

These types of encounters contribute to the narrative aspect of my work. As a committed storyteller, I rely on symbolism, shape and repetition to convey movement. My figures are stylized, and as such exist in worlds composed of psychological implications rather than physical locations. Biology is a key source for my personal iconography, so my subjects are dislocated and float, like deep sea creatures or microorganisms, vaguely unsettling yet inviting curiosity.

My most recent artwork includes my original poetry. To maintain balance between art and poetry, I compose them with a view towards interdependence rather than embellishment to form a holistic work of art.