

# CHRISTINE MANWILLER

RESIDENT ARTIST | STUDIO 340



## ARTIST STATEMENT

“ The beauty, power, and the subtlety of the natural world is the main source of my inspiration, with water and trees forming the main subject matter in my artwork. I use botanical contact printed paper as collage, incorporating the natural patterns and colors created through the natural dyeing process as a subtle echo to the organic form of calligraphed text. My academic background researching bookbinding and manuscripts has inspired the use of calligraphed text, usually medieval hands. I free the calligraphed text from the linear and uniform constraints that formal calligraphy exhibits, stretching and altering the forms into organic patterns that form landscape shapes and color. I am also fascinated by the psychological engagement through the action of writing and find deep personal meaning in keeping the practice of calligraphy as a central part of my

work. I also find the collaboration process of working with writers rewarding and challenging. I use several formats in my work, finding that the artist book format adds another layer of engagement for the viewer/reader. The tactile nature of book art encourages the viewer to have an intimate interaction with the art, exploring the book structure as part of the experience. ”

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*Left Image: "Raindrops II," Acrylic ink on watercolor paper, 28" x 16", 2022.*

*Right Image: "Under the Waves," Acrylic ink on watercolor paper, 24 3/4" x 37 1/2", 2022.*