

Terry Billings, Artist Statement

My video, audio and installation works investigate the relationship of nature and culture and boundaries between public forms of understanding and subjective experience.

The title of the *Revealed Wasp Drawing* panels is descriptive of the process which created them. They are composed by peeling layers from paper wasps' nests, and laying the sheets of wasp paper out on the 2 dimensional planes of the canvas panels. The patterns that the wasps have created in the paper are made more evident this way. The nests are gathered in winter, after the wasps have evacuated, so no wasps are made homeless in this process.

I am interested in how wasps might think about the process of creating the designs. I hope the work raises questions about how much of this creation is agency and choice by the wasps and how much is our sensibilities projected onto them. The panels are laid out as scrolls so that you can walk along them, "reading" the movements.

Reader is a response to being in this show with Clarissa. I made it after viewing images on "Reflection". It is a further contemplation of the relationship of thought and branching patterns.

Elm Elegy is based on the view out of my front window, of the life and death of an elm tree as the property across the street was in-filled. The audio is composed of a digitally attenuated recording of a number of birds in a small grove. Slowing the sounds brings the pitch closer to that of human voices and comprehensibility.



Terry Billings, *READER*
video installation, 2008

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Essay by Dermot Wilson, Director/Curator

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