

**Alicyn Croft Chapman, Fish Installation, Coe Library 2008—2015, Level 3, via Artist Statement (Temporary Installation)**

**Birth year:** 1984

**Explanations of process and technique:**

I have been exploring the combination of two very different methods. The first is the technique of gyotaku. I ink up a real fish, press my paper into it and then pull my image straight from the fish. This creates a very accurate and realistic representation, allowing the eye to see the beautiful texture and detail that lies on the surface of each fish. Lately, I have made the Tilapia my fish of choice for this process. The other method I have drawn on heavily is drawing with crayons while the paper is on a hot plate in order to create a very smooth texture. This also allows the waxy surface to release in certain colors and create more texture within each piece of paper. There is something wonderful about these repetitive circles that I find relaxing to work on. They also create a moving and very organic image.

**Inspiration or Intent behind the piece:**

Somewhere in my past I fell in love with fish. They have integrated themselves deeply into my artwork for several years now. I have been inspired by the biological textures and details within marine life. This became even more apparent once I took an Ichthyology course at the University of Wyoming. This class helped push me and my work further through a deeper understanding of the physiological features of fish. I enjoy the juxtaposition of science and art.

**Content of the piece:**

The images I produce have an ambiguous aspect to them and I feel that this allows the viewer to create their own story about the work. As an artist working with printmaking I love working with units and layers. I have found myself relishing in the idea of each small piece become a part of a much larger whole, emphasizing the importance of each individual part and its role in creating the complete piece. Layering these individuals on one another is one way to achieve their unity that I find quite intriguing and pleasing to view.