

Zoe Pettijohn Schade

Artist Statement

Working from the tradition of painting textile patterns with gouache, I bury each repeating layer of imagery beneath other layers. The embedded and abstracted images rise to the eye in their own time like memories. The geometry of repetition has as much perceptual and psychological ramifications as the image.

Associated images form constellations around a personal image or memory. For example, "Father's Space" is rooted in something my father would say: a human floating alone in outer-space would go insane instantly from the lack of reference points in the vast empty space. This story became a paradigm for my thinking about him, and also how repetition can lead to a space that is simultaneously grand and disorienting, delirious and delusional.