



**MAYSEY CRADDOCK**

*waterlines*

April 15 - May 30, 2026

**cris worley**

FINE ARTS



**MAYSEY CRADDOCK**  
***waterlines***  
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Since 2000, Cris Worley has been proud to represent Memphis-based artist Maysey Craddock, and is pleased to present *waterlines*, our ninth solo exhibition together. The exhibition runs April 15th - May 30th, with an opening reception on Wednesday, April 15th from 5-8pm. The artist will be in attendance. The opening reception runs in tandem with the Dallas Art Fair-sponsored Design District Gallery Night. Galleries at 1845 Levee St will offer an Ice Cream Social for our guests.

Known for her richly layered gouache paintings of ephemeral landscapes, Craddock continues her exploration of fragile ecosystems and the poetic, cyclical forces that shape them.

Drawing from her own photographs of wetlands and other delicate environments, Craddock reimagines fragments of wild habitat that persist—despite human impact—within ongoing cycles of death, rebirth, and reclamation. In *waterlines*, these spaces become both specific and unmoored: at once rooted in observed reality and transformed into imagined terrains that evoke deep time, distant shores, and unseen depths. Her works function as meditations and memorials, honoring both the beauty and vulnerability of environments in flux.

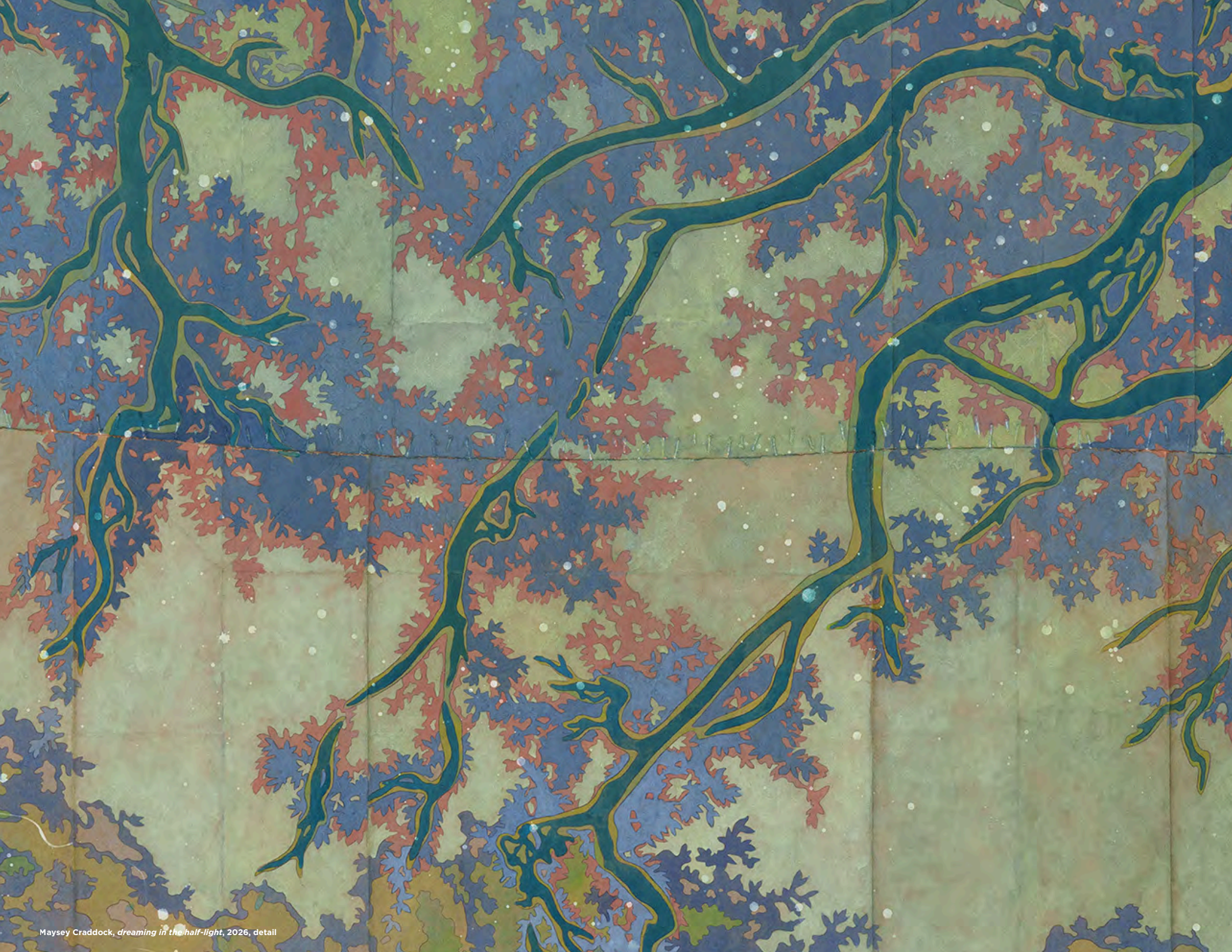
Craddock's distinctive process is integral to the meaning of the work. She constructs her surfaces from found brown paper bags, hand-stitched together with silk thread, creating a tactile ground that is already marked by use and history. Onto this terrain, she layers intricate drawing and translucent veils of gouache, allowing pigment to seep into the fibers and folds. This act of material regeneration parallels the ecological cycles she depicts, where fragmentation and renewal coexist. The resulting compositions balance density and openness, saturated color and atmospheric wash, structure and dissolution.

In the studio, Craddock embraces a rhythm that mirrors the natural world. Her process moves between immersion and distance—what she describes as “seeing the trees” and eventually “seeing the forest.” Lines unfurl across the surface, suggesting tree, sky, and water simultaneously, while luminous color fields pulse with life. The paintings emerge as spaces of tension and harmony, where the built surface and the evolving image converge.

Amid a contemporary landscape marked by rapid environmental and cultural change, *waterlines* offers a contemplative counterpoint. Craddock's works invite viewers into a slower register of time—one attuned to seasonal shifts, geological rhythms, and the quiet persistence of the natural world. Through their sensuous surfaces and evocative imagery, the paintings open a space for reflection on humanity's relationship to nature and the possibility of reconnection. In Craddock's words, beauty becomes “a way to breathe.”

**Maysey Craddock**  
*dreaming in the half-light*, 2026  
Gouache, flashe and thread on archivally treated paper bags  
48h x 36w in  
MC092  
\$24,000 framed





Maysey Craddock, *dreaming in the half-light*, 2026, detail



**Maysey Craddock**

*you and I are sea, 2026*

gouache, flashe and thread on archivally treated paper bags

46h x 56w in

MC091

\$32,000 framed



Maysey Craddock, *you and I are sea*, 2026, detail



**Maysey Craddock**

*How the moon departed*, 2026

gouache, flashe and silk thread on archivaly treated paper bags

48h x 35.75w in

MC093

\$24,000 framed





**Maysey Craddock**

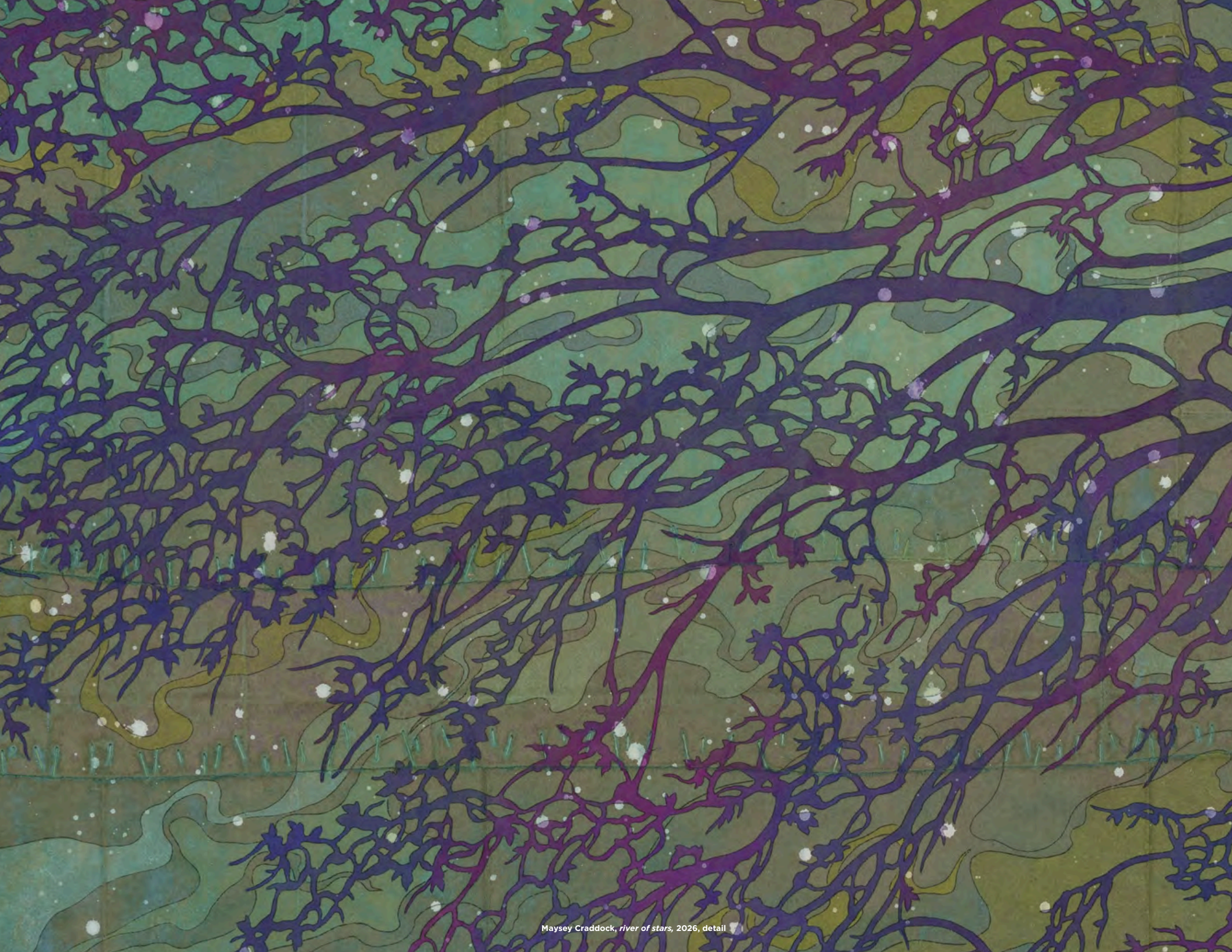
*river of stars*, 2025

gouache, flashe and silk thread on archivally treated  
paper bags

26.50h x 36w in

MC090

\$16,500 framed





**Maysey Craddock**  
*Solar Flare*, 2026  
gouache, flashe and silk thread on archivally treated paper bags  
28h x 24.50w in  
MC096  
\$12,500 framed





**Maysey Craddock**

*Resting Dove*, 2026

gouache, flashe and silk thread on archivally treated paper bags

48h x 62w in

MC095

\$32,000 framed




Maysey Craddock, *Resting Dove*, 2026, detail

**Maysey Craddock**  
*Midnight's Sun*, 2026  
gouache, flashe and silk thread on archivaly treated paper bags  
61.75h x 47w in  
MCO94  
\$32,000 framed







*waterlines*

Based on my own photographs of wetlands and other stressed ecosystems, these works reimagine fragments of wild habitat that, though fragile in the context of our actions, continue to unfold in cycles of death, rebirth and reclamation. In the studio, known places find connection with the imagined landscapes of eras past, the unseen depths of the sea or a distant shore untethered from time. Over and over, I return to these spaces with my camera and, in the making, create a kind of memorial to their senescence, regeneration and, in some cases, their vanishing.

As I make this work, things are happening in the world at a pace and intensity that overwhelm. In the layered process of making these gouache on paper bag paintings, I find a kind of elegy and song that connects with deep time, slow change, and the unfolding of natural cycles and seasons that, I hope, convey a sense of story of these spaces. In the studio, I fall into color and line and surface: how the paint sinks into the tooth and folds of a brown paper bag, already alive in its object-ness, and how color saturates the silk thread that holds the fragments together. The paintings that emerge from this process resonate with saturated hues and a beauty that I hope will elicit new connections to the natural world: how we see and shape it, our place within it and the potential that a deepened awareness has to heal a fragmented world. A line unfurls and describes an arc across the paper - evoking tree, sky, space and light. Through Beauty, a way to breathe.

## **Maysey Craddock b. 1971**

Maysey Craddock's work is a testament to her own interaction with the natural world. Inspired by her close relationship with the southern wetlands and other vulnerable environments, Craddock's work reflects these intimate interactions between herself and the exteriors. Using subjects of growth and nature, Craddock's concept inspires us to think about entropy and impermanence. Images of trees flow right off the page - creating one moment in the broader space of time and presence. Her works draw us into this momentary place - where we can interact and experience environments that are fleeting.

Craddock's technique and materials are an extension of her subject matter. Using common grocery bags, she stitches them together to create a larger surface. The indentions from the original shape of the machine-created bags are often still visible on her works, keeping us from separating these works from their original purpose. By using a single use object to create a fine art piece, Craddock literally knits together the changing landscape and humanity's role. At the same time, the artist gives these often cast aside materials another life, where they are painted gently with watercolors evoking a sense of reclamation and memory.

Maysey Craddock currently lives and works in Memphis, TN. She received a MFA from Maine College of Art and a BA from Tulane University. She has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of the University of Mississippi, Oxford; Stanier Gallery, Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA; the Baum Art Gallery, University of Central Arkansas, Conway; and the Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN. Likewise, she has been included in exhibitions at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton; Walton Art Center, Fayetteville, AK; McNay Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX; Dixon Museum of Art, Memphis, TN; Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA; Contemporary Art Center of New Orleans, and Hunter Museum, Chattanooga. Craddock has received many fellowships including the APSU Tennessee Artist Fellowship, and a Tennessee Arts Commission Fellowship, and has participated in artist residencies both in the US and Germany, including the Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus Residency and the Vermont Studio Center Residency. Most recently, Craddock was the Artist in Residence at the Peninsula School of Art, Fish Creek, WI. Her work is also part of many public and private collections such as the Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN; The Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AR; Music City Center, Nashville, TN; UT Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, TX; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN; Nordstrom's, Nashville, TN; Pfizer Corporation, Memphis, TN, among others.

