

My body is the source of all my memory. It remembers what I am, where I come from, where I am now, and where I am going. It carries encoded packets of information at the cellular and sub-microscopic level that continuously track its evolution from a unicellular microorganism to its current stage as a human being. It constantly processes these memories to generate new information that will be encoded as knowledge and passed on to the next generation.

*Cultured Interactions: Evolving Landscape* explores the process of physical and spiritual change and growth through movement and synthesis and focuses on a landscape made of genomic and neural structures that changes and evolves through the 4 seasons. The dictionary defines interaction as reciprocal action or influence. While culture refers to the artificially controlled nutrient rich environment for growing cells in biology, it means a way of life that is transmitted from generation to generation in sociology.

Inspired by the experimental research done by scientists to study the interactions and processes involved in genetic analysis, stem cell research and neurobiology, I burned and woodblock printed two drawings (of combined maps drawn from my memory of places that I have lived in before migrating to the US) that resemble cell structures and cell cultures. My new experiences and interactions, along with my exposure to the images, events and experiences from different places around the world on a daily basis enable me to continuously reconfigure my memories and maps. I collaged pieces torn from these prints and extended them through drawings to create larger maps and continuously changed them to reflect the changes I experienced. Later, I divided them up to further analyze, extend and create a collection of drawings that have evolved over nine years to from a complex landscape / multi-celled organism.

Scientific research involves stepping into the unknown without fixed or definite answers. The abstract nature of the questions and the experimentation and continuous effort involved in research mirrors the process of creating art and becomes a metaphor for the experience of life. By mapping cell structures and patterns as they transform and evolve, I explore how changes at the microcosmic level lead us to visually and spiritually reflect on the macrocosm.