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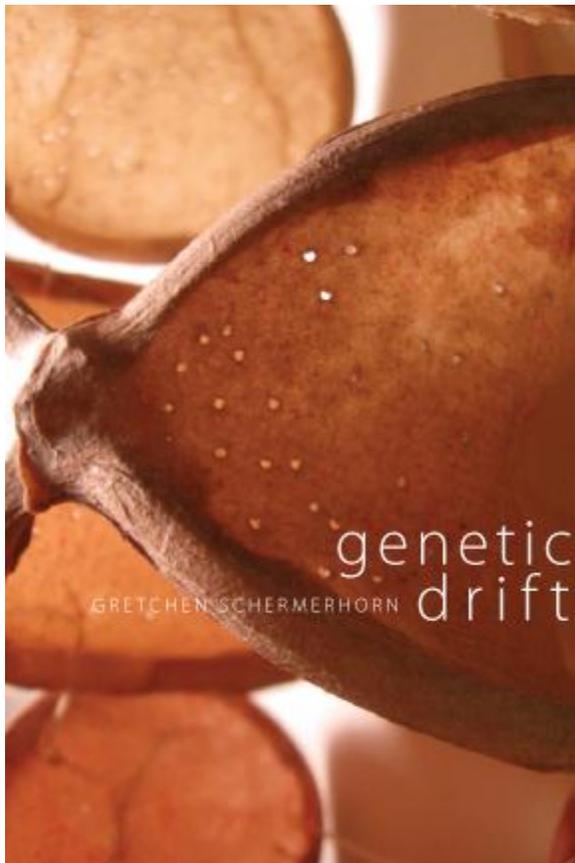
## GENETIC DRIFT

Gretchen Schermerhorn

February 13 – March 22

Opening Reception: February 13, 7-9pm

Curated by Anita Walsh



In this exhibition Gretchen Schermerhorn continues to explore her fascination with science and psychology in her artistic practice. Inspired by English physicist and novelist C.P. Snow's call for a "third culture," Schermerhorn works to bridge the gap between art and science through both her creative process and visual references to biology and animal behavior. Pattern and sequencing in her work also references communication systems like computer punch cards and DNA coding.

With paper as her medium, Schermerhorn creates prints and sculptures using repetition and pattern in an organic way. More specifically, she shows what happens when small elements within a pattern become disrupted or changed

and how this affects the overall structure. Genetic drift is the accumulation of random changes in a gene pool. The individual changes are miniscule and gradual—and the drift is often very slow—but over time these changes cause big alterations to the gene pool. Ultimately, variants of a gene can disappear completely or evolve as in natural selection. Schermerhorn's installations, which contrast natural patterning with decorative wallpaper, vary in much the same way—adapting to a specific time and space.

#### **about the artist**

Gretchen Schermerhorn is a printmaker and hand papermaker. Her work often combines the two media and explores the relationships between humans, science, politics and/or psychology. Gretchen is currently the Director of the Papermill and Artistic Collaborations at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. She received her MFA in Printmaking from Arizona State University in 2004. She has completed artist residencies at Columbia College Center for Book and Paper and California State University. Her prints, books and paper works have been exhibited nationally and internationally in such places as Northern Ireland, New York, Boston and Santa Fe. Her work is in public and permanent collections including the Janet Turner Print Collection and Amity Art Foundation.

The District of Columbia Arts Center is a nonprofit arts space dedicated to promoting the freshest, most under-recognized artists in the Washington metropolitan area. Comprised of a 750 square foot gallery and a 50 seat black box theater, DCAC has been in the heart of Adams Morgan since its founding in 1989. Its dynamic and eclectic visual arts exhibitions and performance events has received local, national and international reviews. We encourage an ongoing dialogue between new artists and the greater arts community and assist artists in both the business and craft of art. Poets, painters, actors, storytellers, sculptors, and performance artists from around the corner and around the world are drawn to DCAC and it remains a mainstay of the Washington, DC arts community.

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