

***Ilana Manolson Artist Statement***

*Of Root, Stem and Leaf* expands Ilana Manolson’s decades-long exploration of natural systems through a synthesis of painting and monoprint techniques to create layered images of plant forms. Her method employs both additive and subtractive gestures, building complexity through successive impressions that mirror nature’s own processes of accumulation and erosion.

Manolson uses plant forms as both subject matter and as a lens into wider systems—pollination, photosynthesis, seasonal succession—that undergird ecological life. Each work becomes a meditation on interconnectedness, revealing the delicate networks that sustain the natural world through mark-making that is at once deliberate and responsive to chance. The resulting works inhabit a meditative space between representation and abstraction, where the familiar contours of leaf and stem are layered into evolving surfaces that echo the cycles of growth, decay, and regeneration. Her work is both homage and inquiry: a way of holding onto the fleeting transitions of the seasons while acknowledging the vast networks that bind us to the more-than-human world.