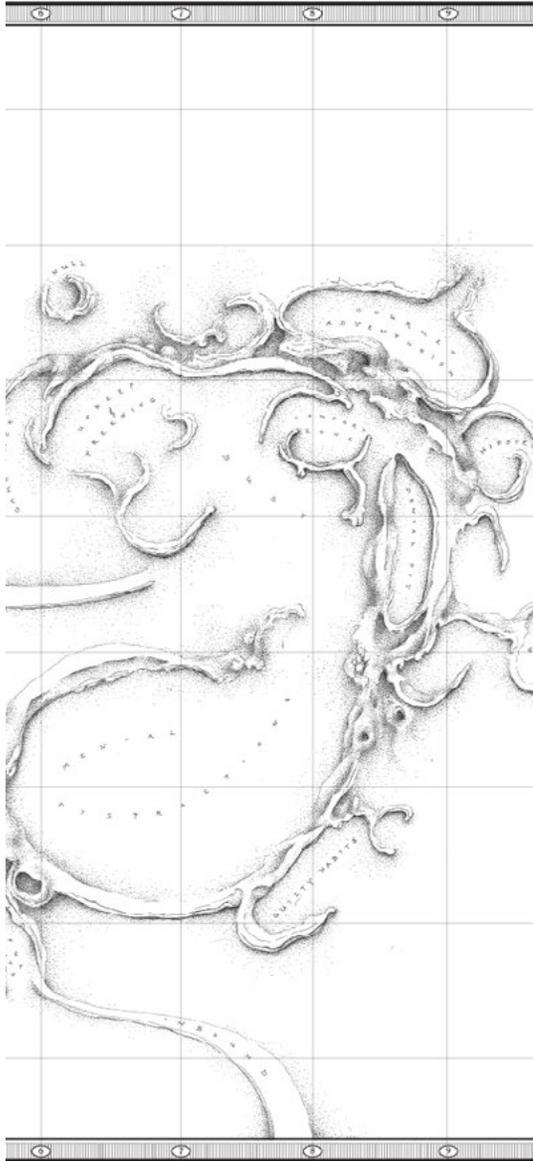


UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA

Patricia Smith
Paris, France



“*City of One* map is a darkly humorous commentary on our attempts to create our own personal utopias.”

City of One

Drawing, hand-stamped and signed, offset printed multiple booklet. 9.5” h x 4.5” w (closed), 18” h x 24” w (open)

Pocket Desire Map

Drawing, offset printed multiple booklet. 6” h x 3.75” w (closed), 6” h x 18” w (open)

Statement

I refer to my drawings as maps, as they are attempts to define a place on paper. The places I am depicting exist within the fluid and mysterious regions of the mind. I use certain conventions of cartography and, in some cases, information transposed from actual city maps. The drawings evolve through a labor-intensive layering of minute details rendered in stippled ink dots, watercolor washes, graphite and other dry media, ink stamping from self-designed rubber stamps, and collaged elements.

These pocket maps are from two series of offset printed booklets. I wanted to mimic old-fashioned travel maps, the ones that have become obsolete with the emergence of GPS and Google Maps. They also remind me of treasure maps, or the distorted topography of antique maps created before there were accurate ways to measure long distances. I like the idea of an object you can hold in your hand that promises to show you the way. In this case, the way is inward.

Biography

Patricia Smith was born in Camden, New Jersey, US and studied art at Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia. She received her MFA from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of Art in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1984, and afterward moved to New York City. She immediately became active in the downtown Manhattan and East Village art scenes, exhibiting at such historic galleries as Sensory Evolution, Helio, Life Gallery, Cuando, Nico Smith, Limbo, Zeus Trabia and Nite Gallery. Her first solo exhibition in New York was at Piezo Electric Gallery in 1986.

Smith was a founding member of Femme Vitale, a renegade women artists’ group which, beginning in the mid-1980s and throughout their ten-year existence, staged many exhibitions in offbeat locations throughout New York City, including the Brecht Forum in Tribeca and the Times Square Hotel in Manhattan. During the 1990s, her work was included in numerous exhibitions at galleries in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, including the pioneering Test Site, Sauce Gallery, Eyewash and Pierogi 2000. Also during the 1990s,

she staged several group exhibitions at her loft in Manhattan's financial district and introduced the work of artists from Europe and under-known local artists to New York audiences. She has also curated large installation projects in conjunction with Voorkamer Artists Initiative in Lier, Belgium and at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Smith is currently represented by the Front Room Gallery in New York, which will present her fifth solo exhibition in fall, 2017. Other solo exhibitions include Black + Herron Gallery, Saint Peter's Church and A.I.R. Gallery in New York; 34 rue Gutenberg in Paris; In Situ Gallery in Aalst, Belgium; Croxhapox Gallery in Ghent, Belgium; and S.O.M.A. in Berlin.

Smith's work has been included in group exhibitions at museums and art institutions worldwide, including the Brooklyn Museum in Brooklyn, New York; Broadcast Gallery in Dublin, Ireland; Articule in Montreal, Canada; Austellungsraum Klingental in Basel, Switzerland; Housatonic Museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut; Stedelijk Museum in Aalst, Belgium; Grand Bazaar in Istanbul in conjunction with the 2007 Istanbul Biennial; Stedelijk Museum in Lier, Belgium; Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas; Weatherspoon Museum at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro; Carlsbad Museum in Carlsbad, New Mexico and Art Amsterdam KunstRAI. Galleries exhibiting her work include Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Jancar Gallery and Solway Jones Gallery in Los Angeles, Dorsch Gallery in Miami, Pierogi Gallery in Brooklyn, Dean Project and Artifact Gallery in New York and numerous others. Her work was recently featured on the cover of *You Are Here: The Journal of Creative Geography*, published by the University of Arizona.

Smith's exhibitions have been reviewed in various publications, including *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, *Los Angeles Times*, *L Magazine*, *Le Devoir* (Montreal), *The Globe and Mail* (Toronto), *De Morgen* (Belgium), *Critical Review*, *New York Magazine*, and others. She was awarded artist's residencies for 2013 and 2015 at *Cité Internationale des Arts* in Paris and in 2014 was an artist in residence at *Kaus Australis* in Rotterdam. She was a 2014 fellowship winner in *Drawing/Printmaking/Artists Books* from the New York Foundation of the Arts.

www.patriciasmithart.com