

SUSTAIN Drawings + Installations by Terry Arena  
December 14, 2014 - February 22, 2015

*All my work is related in some way to food. For the recipe and bee colony collapse projects, I feel there is a unifying sense of loss and also wonderment. It is truly fascinating to me to consider these shifts, as in fewer home cooked meals at the table with family to individual ready-made meals on the fly.* - Terry Arena

Terry Arena's quietly detail-packed drawings are exquisite for using the pathos of fallen bees and desiccated persimmons to bear witness to the environmental vulnerability of our food sources. They may be even more exquisite for contemporizing the academic drawing by marrying it to the modern use of empty space. The result is a renewed admiration for the beauty of classic drawing in the service of the critical issue of sustainability of contemporary food culture.

In 2007, Arena took a year-long sabbatical from her job as a high school art teacher to gain her Master's degree at California State University Northridge. Although a scary financial decision, it was one of the "best decisions" the artist had ever made. Her drawings began as a respite and a way to work through her struggling with a painting. Arena had switched to doing a study in graphite to gain objectivity but then made it her preferred medium realizing that the monochrome approach carried her work "to a more effective place conceptually".

Terry Arena is an artist living and working in Ventura, California. She received her B.A. in Art Education from California State University, Long Beach and her M.A. in Painting at California State University, Northridge. Among her solo exhibits are *Culinary Inheritance Revisited* at UCLA Kerckhoff Hall and *G.R.A.S (Generally Recognized as Safe)* at Moorpark and Ventura College. Her work has been included in various group exhibits at the Long Beach Museum of Art, Chinatown's Red Pipe Gallery in Los Angeles, Chain Letter at Shoshana Wayne Gallery in Santa Monica, and Orange County Center for Contemporary Art. This past summer, Arena had a solo exhibit at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio.

The incredible time investment Terry Arena makes to create her series by working from life with basic pencil and paper can be likened to her grandmother's soup recipe made from scratch with simple ingredients and tools. Both have turned out to be deliciously well worth the effort.