

Subterranean Murmur

Alex Proba & Scott Sueme

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In *Subterranean Murmur*, artists Alex Proba and Scott Sueme explore the concept of intuition, turning toward and magnifying the inner voices that drive a creative process. Both artists use shapes and symbols as nostalgic markers of memory and tangible records of the everyday.

The exhibition title comes from Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird*, a treatise on writing and maintaining a creative practice. Lamott equates listening to your intuition with the sound of a subterranean murmur. There might not be a definitive "aha" moment, a moment where the image in your mind's eye is perfectly clear, but rather a quiet rumbling, a breadcrumb on the trail.

In Proba's works, intuition's guiding words are akin to that of a familiar familial voice. she takes inspiration from her *babcia* (Polish for "grandmother"), who fled communist Poland and her career as a florist, but never lost her love of horticulture. Proba's *babcia* maintained an elaborate garden where Proba spent many afternoons painting as a child; these formative experiences influenced Proba's choice to become an artist and designer. Each of the paintings in this series is inflected with memories of moments they spent together - the pattern she wore, the garden she tended, the meals she cooked. Through her abundantly ornamented paintings, freeform canvases, and plump sculptures, Proba pays homage to her *babcia*.

Through bold and meditative patterns, Sueme's paintings capture the pursuit of transcending external noise and interference in favor of following intuition. Each work serves as a guidepost, with precisely positioned symbols that suggest the mapping of an internal impulse. Titles such as *Antennas* and *Encoding, Sorting, Storing* speaks to the desire to categorize or label those inner voices, and give shape to instinct. Within this framework, Sueme's paintings knit together meaning and memories from diverse sources: Josef Alber's theory of color, a frigid trip to Joshua Tree, and hiking in Vancouver to the edge of a cliff, among others. In and of themselves, these compositional fragments tell their own tales, acting as vessels to project isolated moments of material, texture, emotion, and narrative into connected stories.

In *Subterranean Murmur*, Sueme and Proba's works speak to a practice borne from osmosis, of letting intuition guide and serve as a means to organize, extrapolate, and process the internal and external experience.