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The NAR is housed on the ancestral lands of the Báxoje  
or Bah Kho-Je (Iowa), oθaakiiwaki·hina·ki (Sauk) and  
Meškwahki-aša-hina (Fox), Očhéthi Šakówinj (Sioux),  
Umó"ho" (Omaha), and Hocąk (Ho-Chunk), as well as  
those tribal nations who are contemporary caretakers  
of land in Iowa, including the Meskwaki: Sac and Fox  
Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa.

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## FEATURED ARTIST

*Mary Wagner*



Mary Wagner's drawings are simple, fluid, curvilinear paths arcing around an absent center, like an interstellar object flirting about a gravity well. The lines warm and complicate through repetition. The slim edge of the pen takes on form and depth like cotton candy wisps or subatomic particles. Value and texture suggest dimension and movement. These things coax and combine into a sort of "non-subject" or subjective subject matter, inviting viewers to project themselves. They are exercises in minimal purity, expressions of chaos and order, complicated networks, psychedelic dreamscapes, pretty eye candy, and quasi-science-y mathiness. Wagner's drawings are mediated by machines she herself makes, relatively simple machines more akin to the inclined plane or a lever-and-fulcrum than to the personal digital computer. The meshing teeth of gears guide her pen. Everything revolves around something. Wagner's drawings emulate and replicate the mechanics of the universe. Wagner grew up in rural Wisconsin, and she comes from a family of makers: mechanics, woodworkers, sewers, crafters, architects, and other professional artists. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has spent time as a graphic designer, marketing executive, and professional bookbinder. She lives and draws in downtown Chicago, in a modernist high-rise overlooking Lake Michigan.