



EILEEN ROSCINA | Artist Statement

This artwork, *Of Light and Air*, attempts to subvert traditional modes of looking and challenges preconceived assumptions of light, sight—and furthermore of epistemology itself. This sequence of images is intended to be viewed through a toy historically associated with wonder: a hand constructed teleidoscope. The images themselves draw from different concepts of light found in the natural world: fresh and pressed flowers, clouds, light refractions, crystalline patterns. However, these window-like squares are obfuscated with a set of grid patterns acting as blocks, cages or containers. Disrupting assumptions of visibility and transparency, I am interested in securing the shadows - in how the dark can inform the light.

The images I have created were inspired from reading Rebecca Solnit's book *Orwell's Roses*. She writes of an anecdote where a scientist refers to trees and plants as merely compounded air and light—over long periods of time. "Joe Lamb remarked to me, 'One way of looking at trees is that they are captured light. Photosynthesis, after all, captures a photon, takes a little energy before re-emitting it at a lower wavelength, and uses that captured energy to turn air into sugars, and then sugars into the stuff that makes leaves, wood, flowers, roots. Even the most solid of beings, the giant sequoias, are really light and air.'"