

## Patterns of Nature: The Spiral and Interconnectedness

Patterns of Nature supposes that life exists in a state of flux—expanding and contracting endlessly. A central theme, thus, in the exhibition is the Spiral. Claudia Kleefeld, performance artist and painter, relates the Spiral to nature: the coil of a human ear, a spider's web, or bee's back. In a universal sense, the Spiral symbolizes the great mystery, the inner thread that joins humanity to all of nature.

Just as the butterfly transmutes from caterpillar to cocoon, so too must Kleefeld engage the cyclical movement of passing time through painting and performance, which undoubtedly declares her work as process-based. Painting and drawing is process-oriented for the artist, like the channeling of words, and her performances. The entirety of Kleefeld's journey with *Patterns of Nature* should be understood as a progression that is still in motion. All parts of this evolution allude to the Spiral.

Kleefeld joins the duality of birth and death, elevating experience to rebirth, which continues the Spiral, yet again. Thus, the Spiral is emblematic of *oneness*, collective unconsciousness, and nonlinear time. Robert Frost helps clarify the intention of the exhibition, "Poetry is like love. It begins in delight and ends in wisdom." *Patterns of Nature* poetically investigates ordinary/sacred; internal/external; light/darkness through interactive performance, chronology and automatism.

Excerpt from essay written by Katy Crocker