

RUSSO ▲ LEE GALLERY

Ramble

Nomad, wanderer, drifter, organizer, and watchwoman are all words that come to my mind as I look back at the time I spent creating the pieces in this show. Two distinct but relatable processes have to do with order. I am an artist who thrives on change of landscape and variation of materials and methods. I could not survive without changing my environment, but simultaneously I get tired from the exhaustion of the sheer physical shlepping involved in being so mobile.

When Covid first hit, I spent time outside painting smaller pieces of table-size canvas with textile dyes. So I had a stockpile of these strips, and as I often do, I got the urge to empty the coffers.

Both the 'road trip' collages and the 'wallcoverings' comprise the caches in my studio. Ripping, cutting, and reconfiguring are similar, and both touch on the idea of movement.

The two-lane blacktop views, typically from the passenger side, are moments of thought or contemplation. I often get ideas on the road, and being in the landscape without people or unsightly decisions gives me a sense of calm and comfort.

In sharp contrast, I made the wallhangings during a stint I spent working in a studio in the garment district of New York City. Linear edges, patterns of aggregate, or worn and patched sidewalks. There is order in disorder, and I chose to install them to relate more to a nomadic life, an essential part of a home to be rolled up and taken to the future greener pasture.

Whitney E. Nye, March 2023