

With students gone, UVa's alumni draw attention

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Of enduring interest, the natural landscape has long been considered among the noblest and most popular subjects for art. We find comfort in the annual renewal of nature, the rebirth of flowers and the visible growth of plants and trees.

Creatively presented in a combination of artfully composed Polaroid emulsion prints, drawings and watercolors by local artist Cary Brown-Epstein, the surprising compositions are the highlight of the University of Virginia Alumni Show presented at the University of Virginia Art Museum through June 3.

Executed in an elaborate process that refers to collage, each small composition becomes a kind of dreamscape.

Sawed logs from the heart of trees on the artist's grounds form a series of smooth, circular motifs that appear to playfully tumble and expand.

In some of her compositions, flowers appear to descend from the sky, and clouds drift and dissolve in the evening darkness. They suggest the penmanship of angels written across the heavens.

Often, the contours of the assembled images form the configuration of a cross, as if imbuing nature with spiritual connotations.

Viewing hours at the University of Virginia Art Museum, on Rugby Road near the Rotunda, are 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.