

Wallace West

artist statement



Creating worlds as a book illustrator, my backgrounds always have one element that gives as much personality as a main character: plants.

They enliven each spread with an energy that I also use to personalize my own living spaces with fine art. From a shitty studio in Brooklyn to a haunted house in Salem, I've been the tenant of more ZIP codes than my family can keep track of. This has meant using art to quickly make a home mine, and to quickly pack it up when it's time to get the hell out.

Art travels as easily as it transforms. Within the time it takes to hammer a nail (and say 'here we go again'), I can make a tacky box a joyful homecoming. This is the sentiment, energy, and magic that inspires my artwork as I develop shapes that work as well in punchy colors as they do in matte black-and-white.

With the near financial impossibility of owning a home these days – and gross landlords forbidding the injection of personality via wallpaper and renovations – the simple act of art on a wall (be it framed originals or bigger-than-life murals) is a mental health win for tenants in studios, affordable housing, community spaces, and you know, even your parents' basement.

It's my mission to continue to create a catalog of botanical shapes and, under the tutelage of mentors, push the craft even further with new textures, colors, and capabilities to transform.

-WW



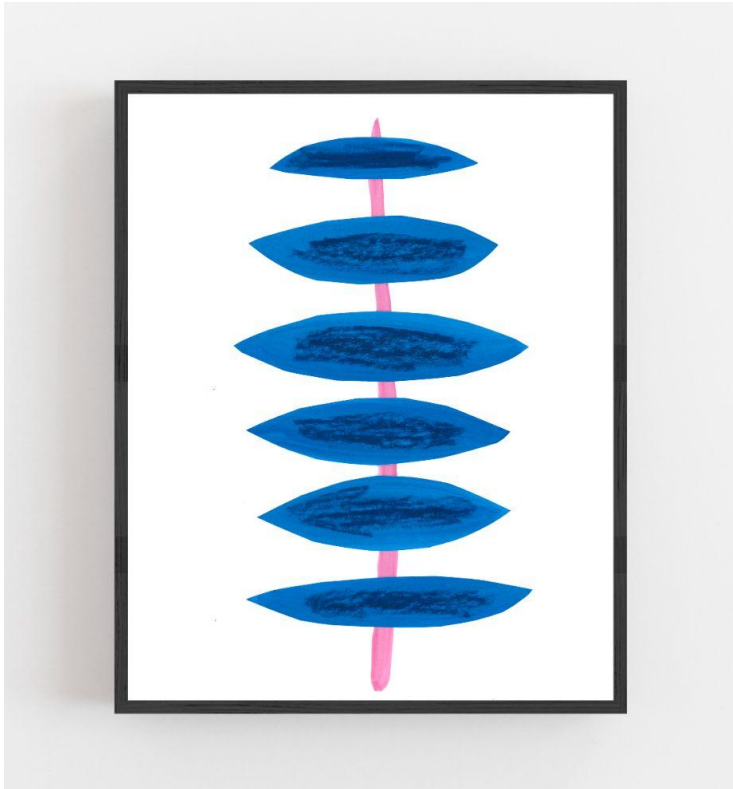
CUT PAPER PLANTS 1 & 2

Handpainted paper decorated with pastel texture and assembled by hand





CUT PAPER PLANTS 3 & 4
Handpainted paper decorated with pastel texture and assembled by hand





POTTED PLANTS 1 & 2

Pulling from the personality of picture books to paint a more youthful, looser take on still life.





Art is a
retaliation
against empty
spaces.

I'm on a mission to create work that
makes it easy to give life to both public
and private places.

-WW

