

Memories can be good inspirations for designs. It is spring and one of my favorite times with Grandpa was exploring the outdoors. He helped me up into the willow to view a nest of robin eggs. Their blue color amazed me.

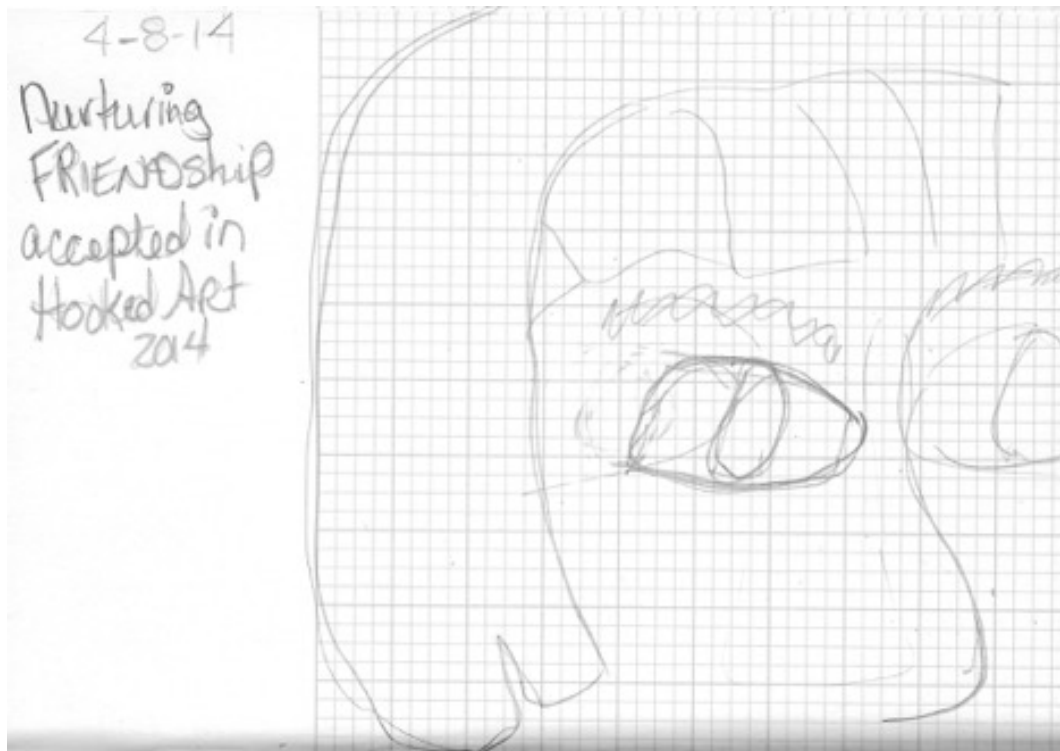
Stuffing the eggs and using a cluster of alpaca yarns for the nesting material brings to life my recollection.

No entries for April 2- 7, 2014

The series explored for these six days uses basic elements.

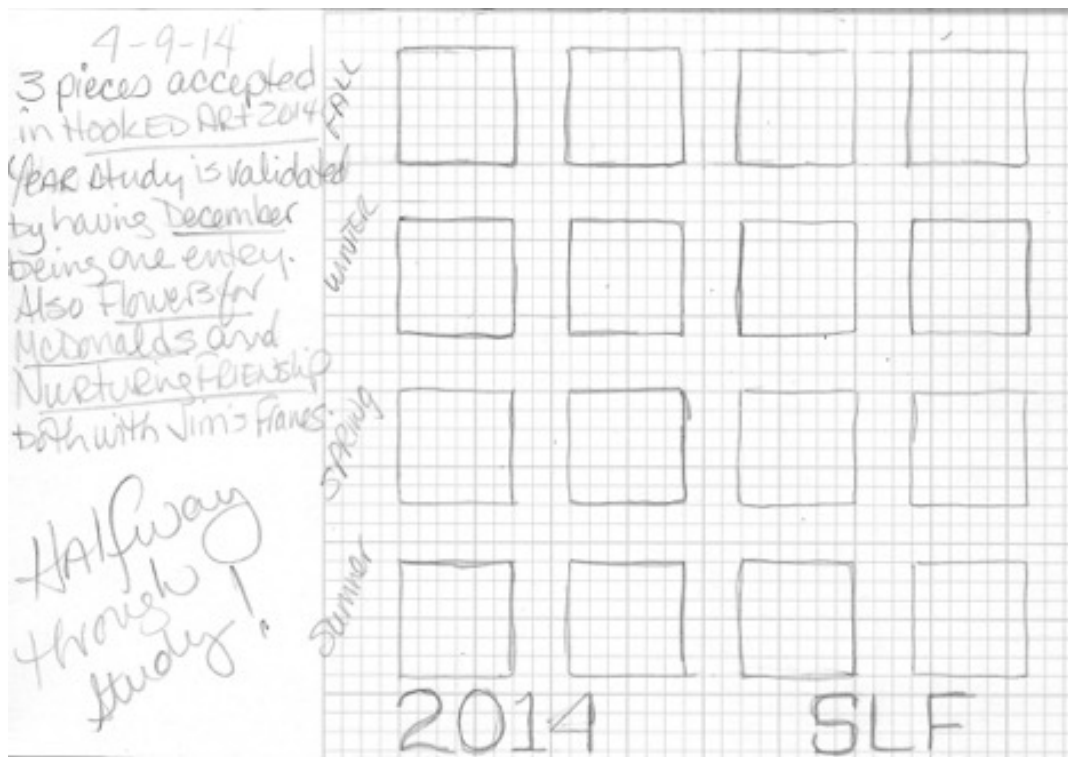
Shape, Color, and Value

There are two with the same fabrics in different proportions. This exercise is helpful to see how colors, value and amounts of each inter-react.



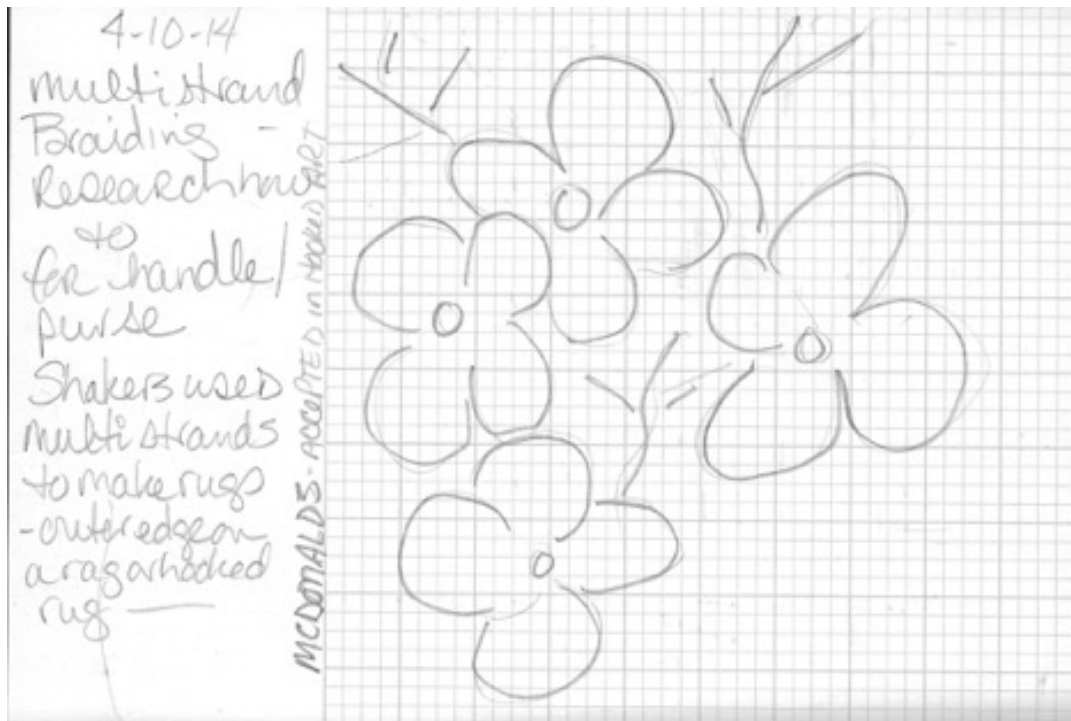
In recognition of juried work accepted for 'Hooked Art 2104', this design refers to **Nurturing Friendship** which I created in 2006.

Hand torn strips left ragged depict the hair.



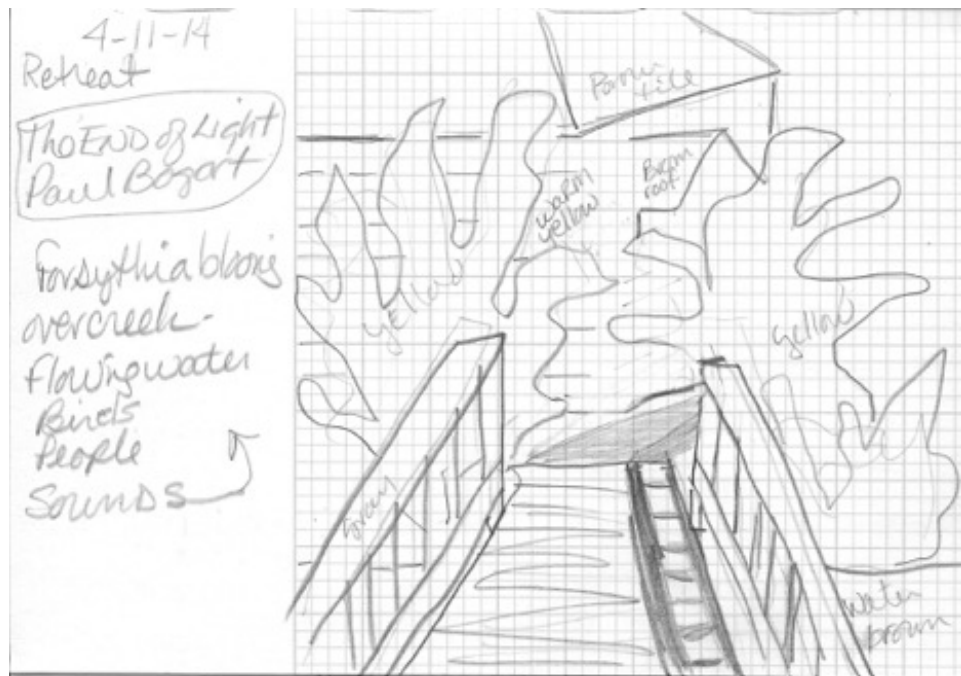
What an exciting day it is the halfway point in full year and the **December** panel was accepted by Liz Alpert Fay for the 'Hooked Art 2014' exhibit.

How to depict the study in a five inch square? tiny squares of course.



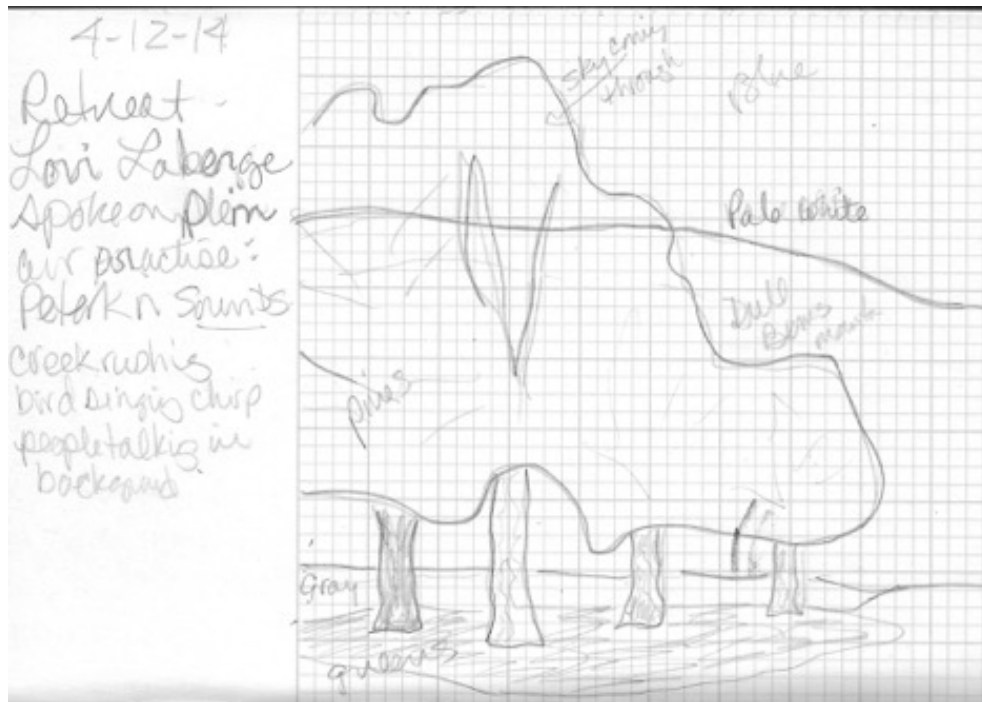
The third piece accepted in 'Hooked Art 2014' is **Flowers for McDonalds**. I am researching the McDonald's to create workshops teaching using multi techniques. Yes, this too is not new.

Blanche and Otha McDonald lived in Gilmer County, WV near Lettergap living into their 80's in the 1970's. Incorporating quilting, trapunto, embroidery and standing wool which looks like rughooking their work is in museum and personal collections including the Smithsonian Folklife Collection. Some of their rugs are 5 x 7 and they also made footstools using large tin cans.

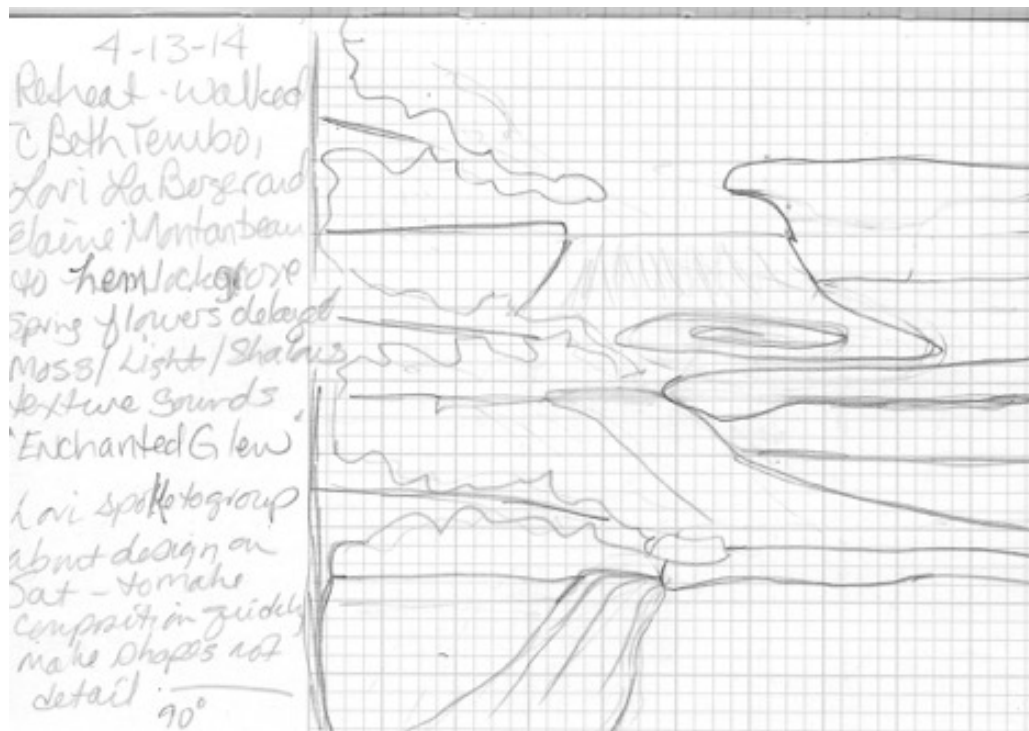


Journal in hand every day allowed for spontaneous sketches on my travels.

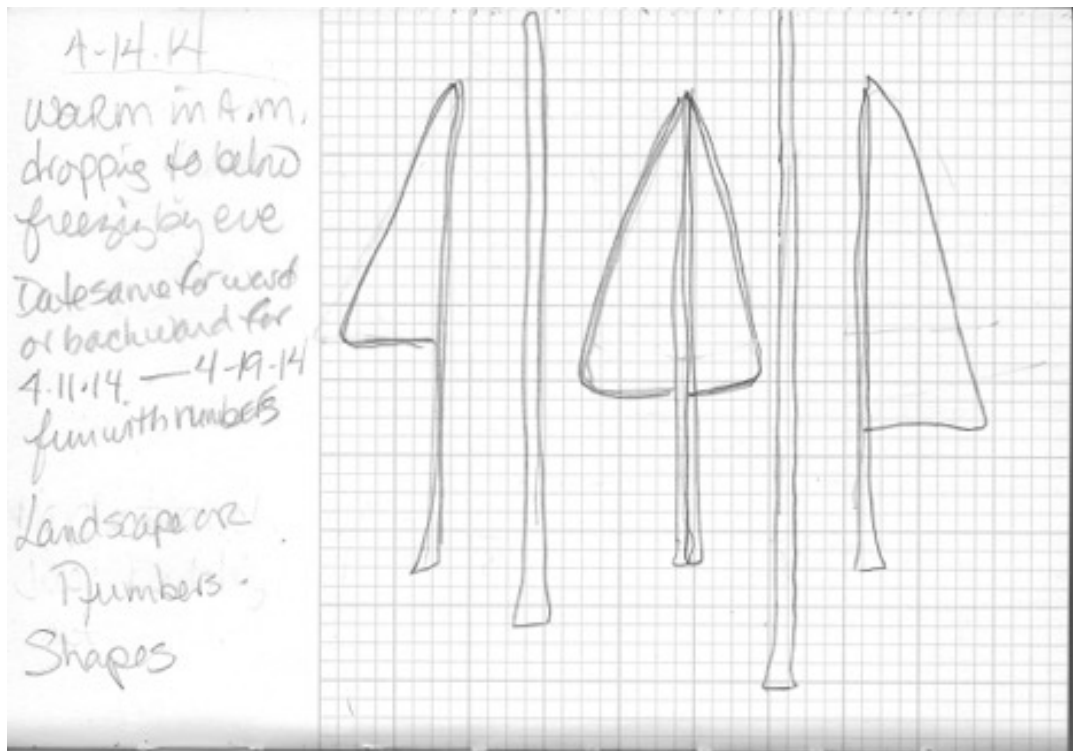
This is a challenging design especially using #6 cuts. Blocks of color and value or texture were used. I still think the background building should be simpler. Perhaps eliminate the attempt of a roof.



Lori LaBerge discussed how to sketch a scene in preparation for hooking outdoors (Plein Air). The shapes and indications of light and shadows is all necessary to begin. Capturing the shadows at the time will help while working in our slow process since that will continue to change throughout the day. The subject (as long as it is not moving) will be there for examination later.



The water rushing over worn rocks at the falls inspired this sketch. I have selected a hand dyed artwool piece to embellish with embroidery. The dark horizontal lines only need some diagonal ones.

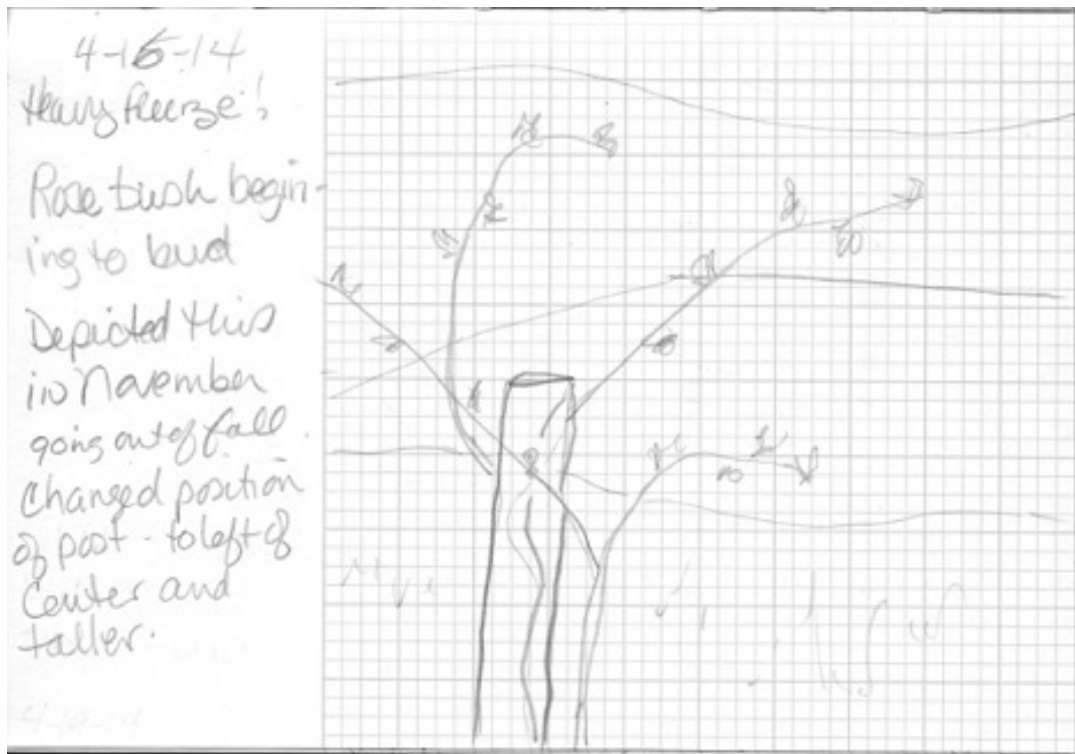


Selecting the right font, coloring shapes rather than just outlining, the date 4/14/14 becomes a forest.

Interesting how you can read April 11 through the 19th backwards or forwards.

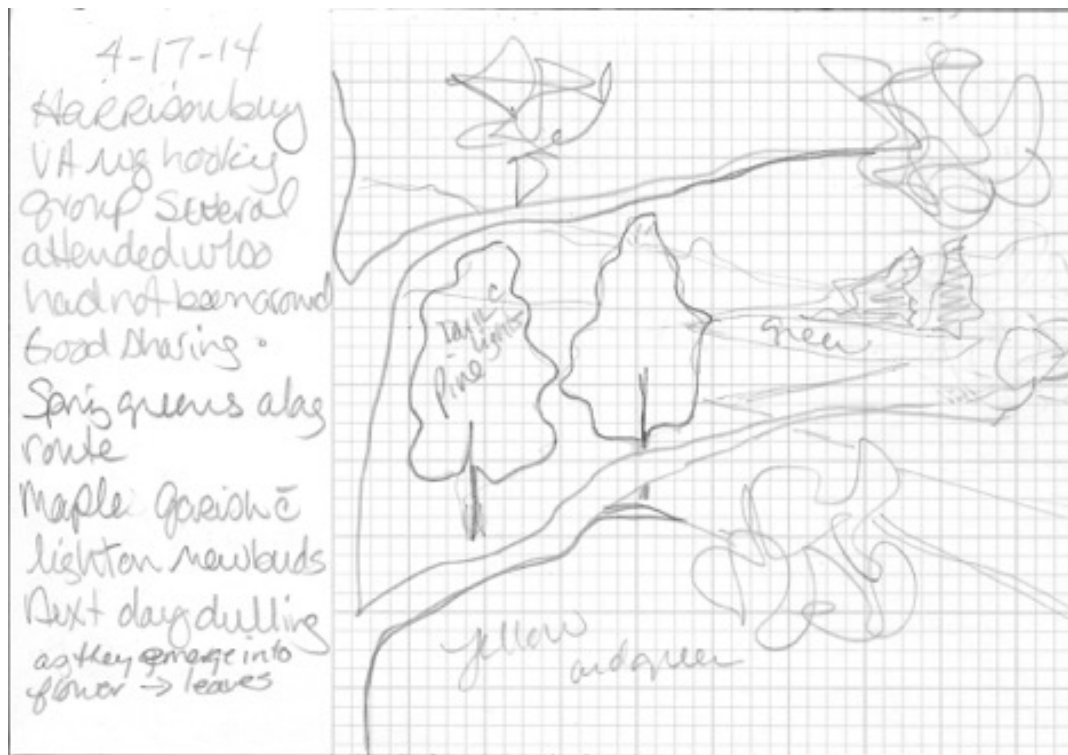


The day was a foggy one. Even though we are in spring and the buds are popping out of drab winter, this square stays true to the early seasonal palette.

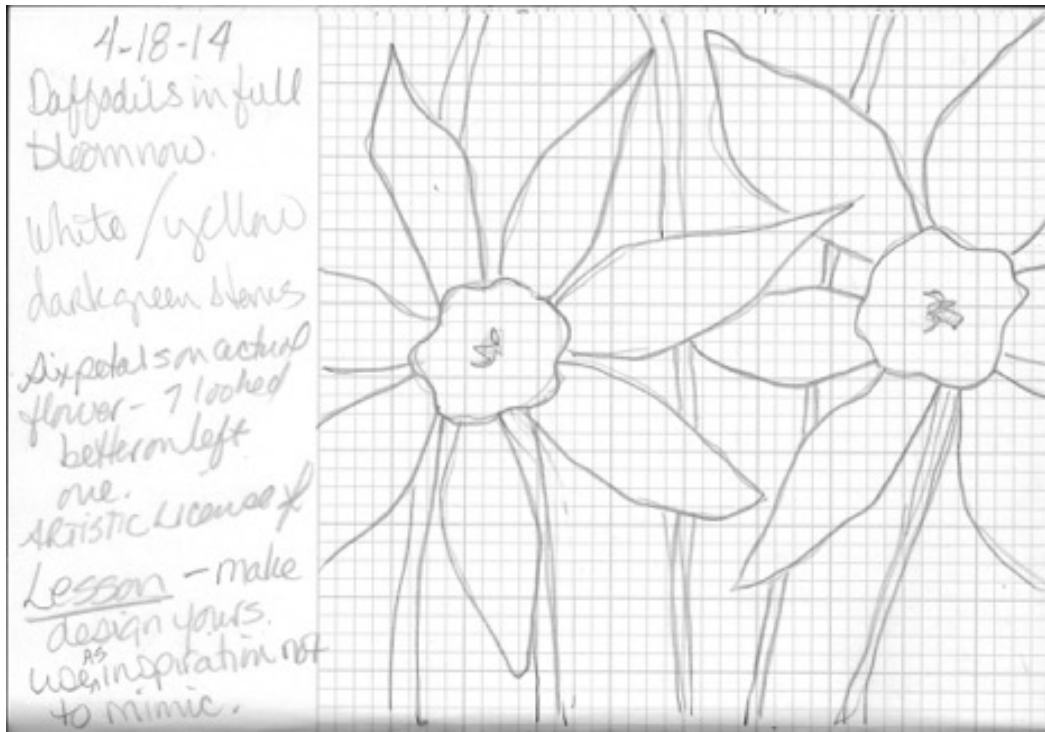


In the November 29, 2013 square this same post is depicted.

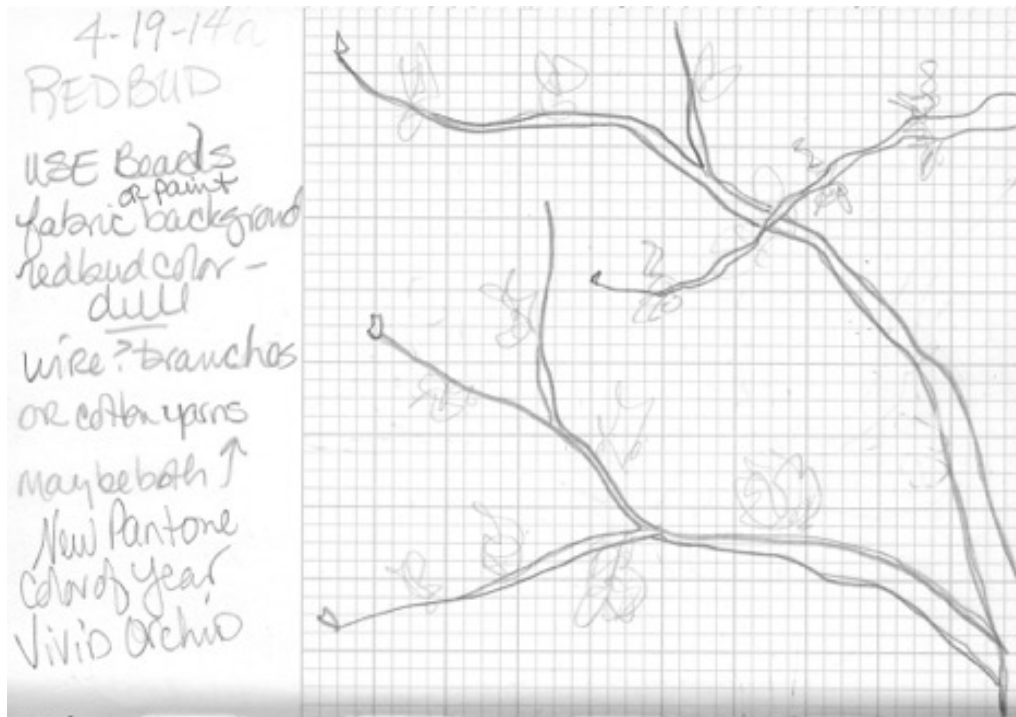
Notice the sky and foreground are different values because of the season changes. The post is a pin loom 2 x 4 piece rolled into the shape and stitched onto the backing. I used pearl cotton threads for the wire and to indicated grasses.



The colors of Spring are jolting after the medium neutrals of winter. Notice how they change from one day to another as the buds become full leaves.



I love flowers and what better way to say that than in 3-D. Using purple the complement of yellow for background and lighter values all adds to a happy composition.



One of the most anticipated sign of spring is the blossoming of Redbuds. A native tree in our forests especially along roadways the power line companies have been working with tourism departments to trim rather than clear cut when they need to protect the lines.

There are miles of mature redbud trees along Rt50 entering Hampshire County.

Beads shimmer and the painted background blurs as if this tree is one of many.

The entry sketch for April 20, 2014 is a clump of ramps (wild alliums). This is the time of year many groups serve meals with pounds of the pungent crop.

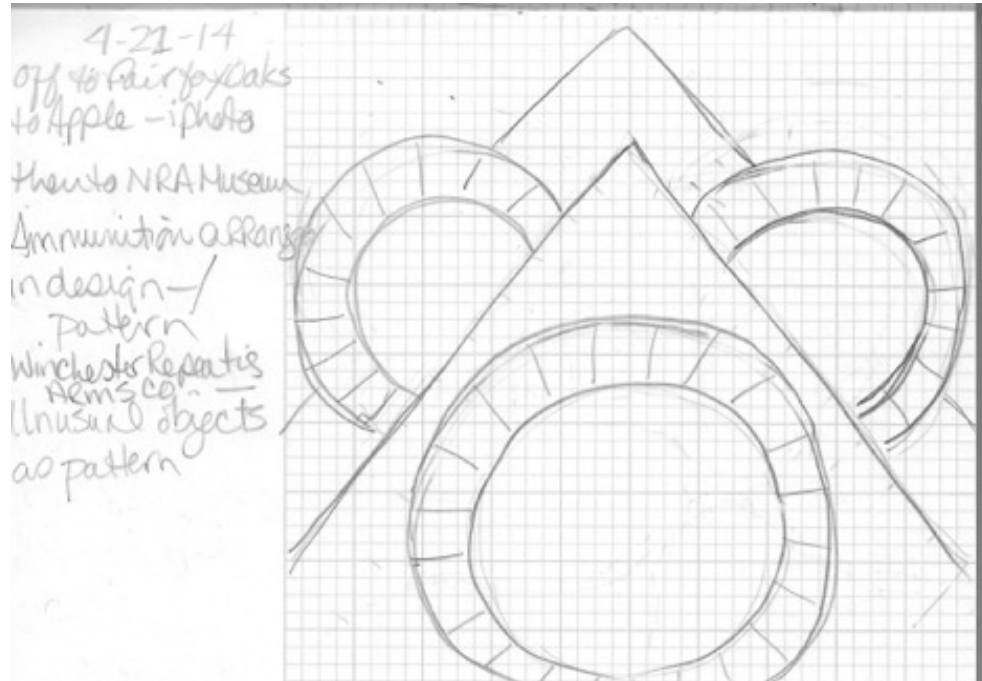
I use the acronym R.A.M.P.S. for the jewelry line of hooked pieces. It stands for Rag Art Means Personal Style and is a way to introduce our wild herbs to a new audience.

The square has one of my pins on a plaid piece of wool.



The pine in our southern field was my height when we began building the house. Now fifteen years later it towers many feet but is still straggly.

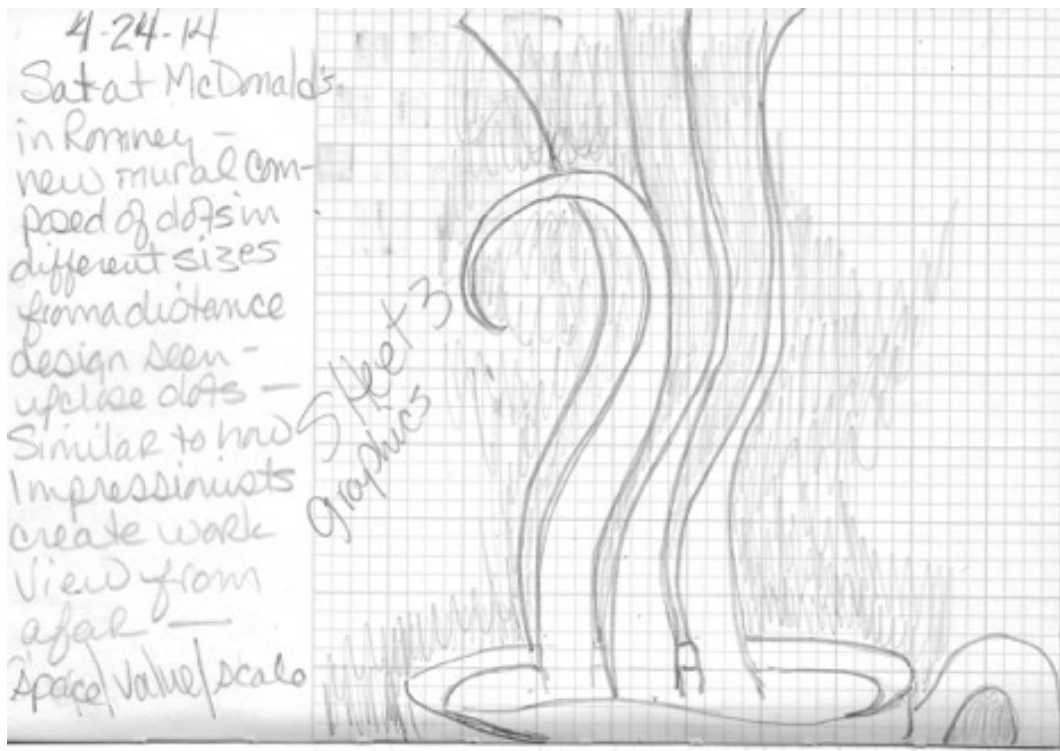
The tree is embroidered this time. It is also hooked in several other squares.



It is interesting how objects can be arranged to create designs. Our visit to the NRA Museum inspired this square. The ammunition shells from Winchester Repeating Arms Company were framed displaying several sizes.

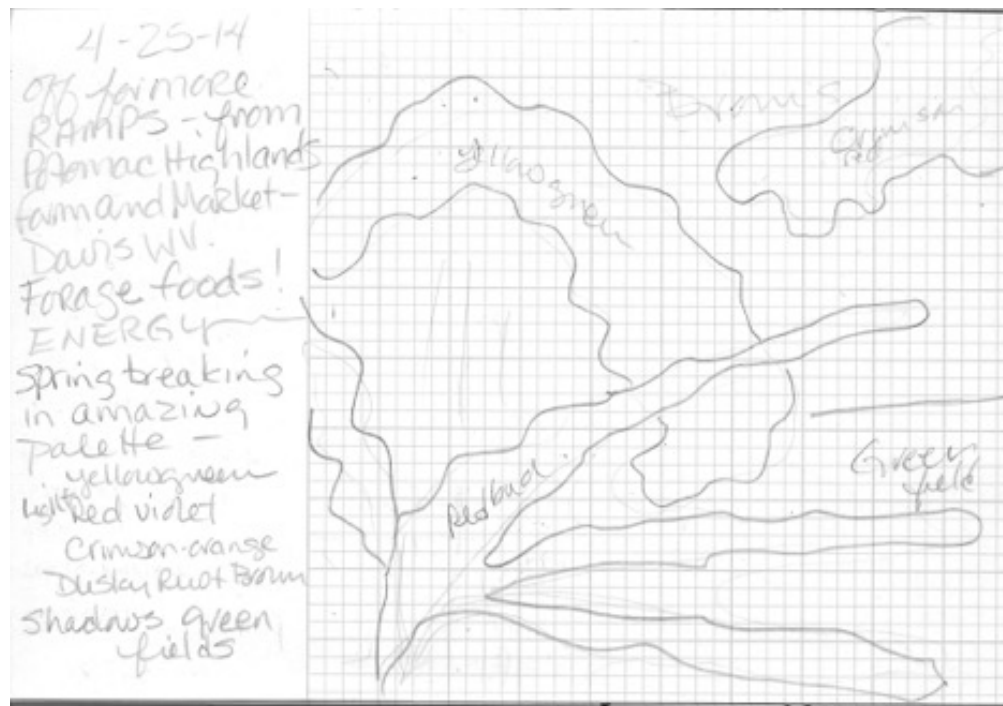
How to depict the long shells? I used hand torn wide strips and pulled them higher than the surrounding spaces.

The entry for April 23, 2014 was a hummingbird checking out a red billiard ball Jim installed on our porch railing. It is a good memory but not inspiring by the time I got back to working on the square. The April 22 subject was explored again using upholstery fabric and the applique' technique.



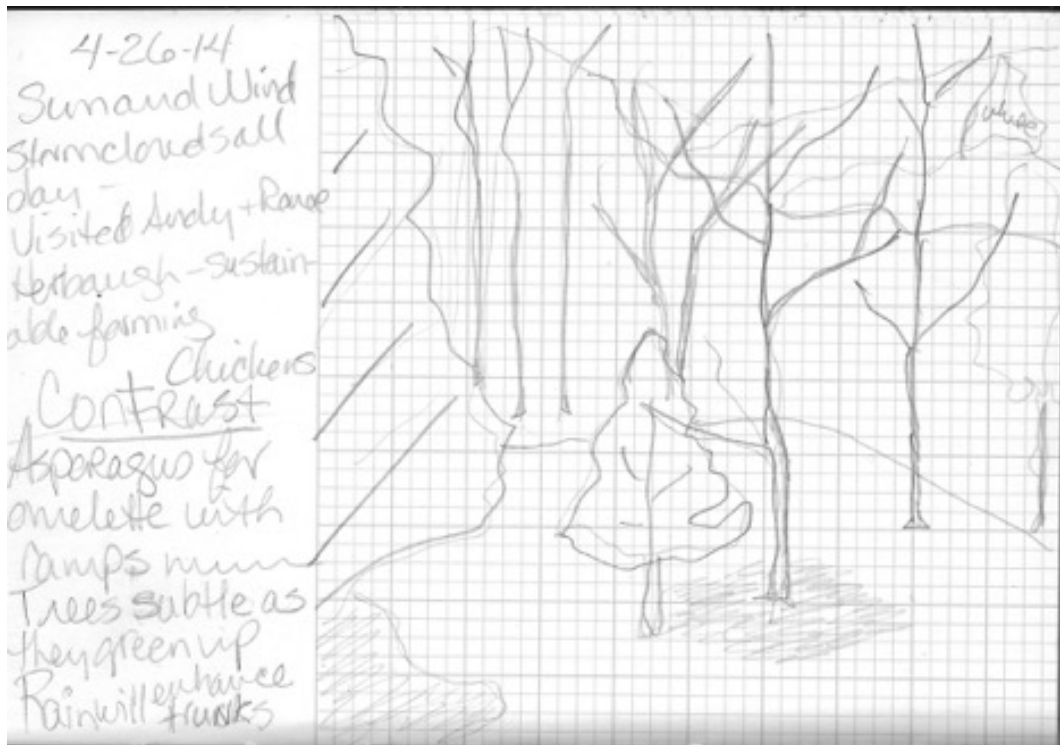
Graphic design is used by companies to communicate subliminally.

I studied positive and negative space when sketching but used a transitional value change and complementary colors working the design.

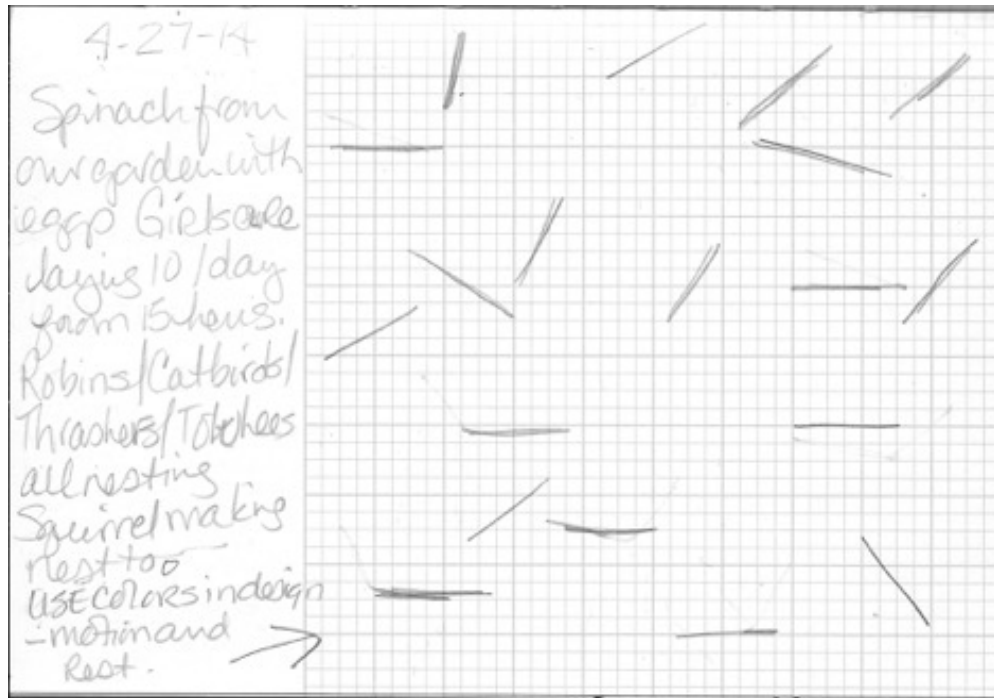


Guess what? I drew the redbud again!. The April 19, 2014 square is farther away.

This time it is close-up and more textural details could be used.

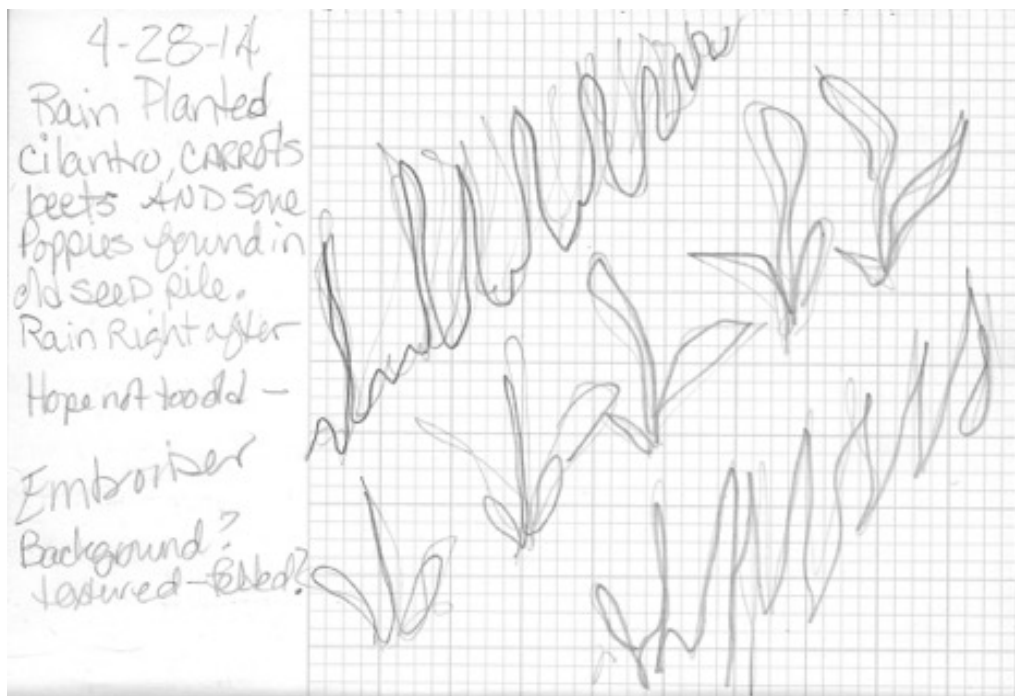


The southern view again. This time I gave the feeling of buds popping out by using white as background and the bright green outlining the tree to left.



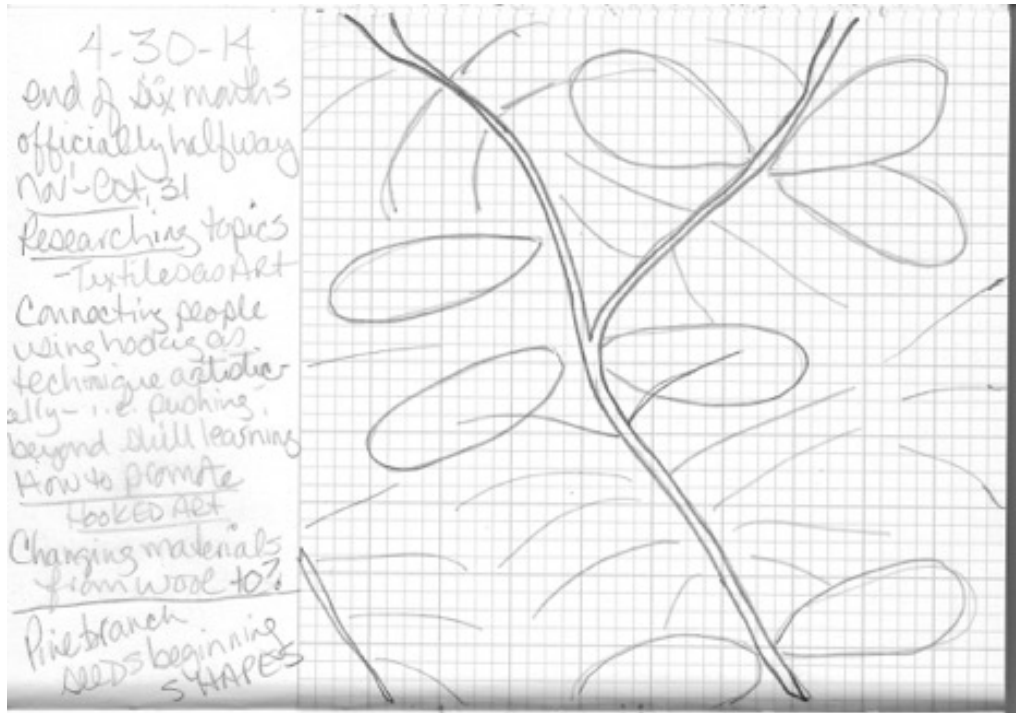
Simplifying the birds flying around in all their mating colors into just short lines this design still conveys a busy scene.

Making sure some are diagonal adds to the movement.



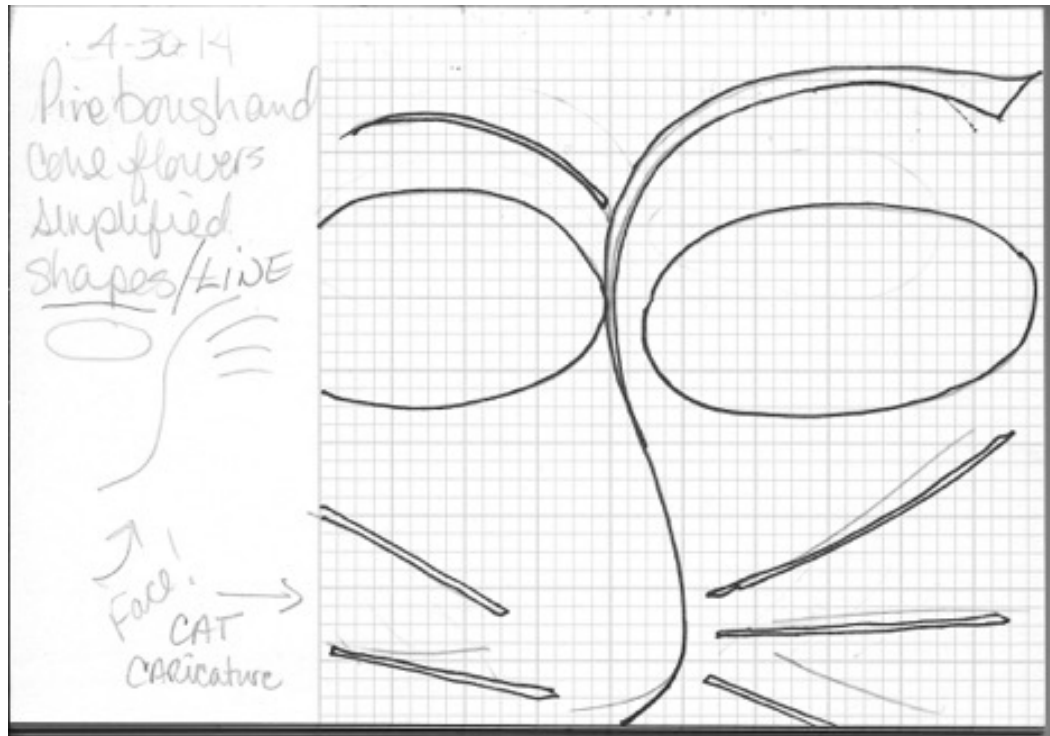
It is gardening time and the wet dark soil with tiny plants poking up in their rows was a good subject. Drawing again on diagonal with the line going up from left to right seems to be a natural direction for me.

Note I thought to embroider this sketch but ended up using yarns giving a soft all over look like the freshly worked soil.



The pines are pollinating forming small cones. This stem was interesting for the simple shapes and natural arrangement of needles (lines) and buds (shapes).

Using upholstery fabric for the square on 4-30 I selected similar wool to hook this background. The buds are cut out from the same fabric and slightly puffed to mimic the original.



Simplifying the shapes on April 29 sketch lead to this design.

To me it suggests a cat. You?