Artist’s Statement for the Pareidolia Series

Pareidolia is the psychological phenomenon of seeing a recognizable image in something otherwise random, like clouds or wood grain. I began working on the Pareidolia series as part of my interest in exploring the relationship between chance and order. I spilled and blotted some ink on paper and began drawing what I saw in the ink: laboratory equipment and glassware. The randomness of spilled ink combined with the control of intricate drawing exemplifies my approach to art and science; there is a constant desire and struggle to leave some things to chance. As I developed the work, the images began to resemble veins, intestines, and neurons. Ultimately this entire series alludes to the confusing mixture of curiosity, fear, awe and mystery that surround concepts of research, and scientific progress. The drawings are at the same time enticing and repulsive; they are detailed and graceful, yet chaotic and unpredictable.