A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce Morphology, an exhibition of new drawing-based works that range from shadow boxes to installations by Julia Westerbeke. This is the artist’s first solo exhibition in New York City.

Drawings are the building blocks of Westerbeke’s practice, lifted from the page and collaged together to form textural reliefs and intricately layered surfaces. The imagery is largely abstract, inspired by a mix of science fiction and biological forms, creating a dynamic that is both organic yet alien, familiar yet foreign. This interplay between biotic fact and fantasy speaks to our complex relationship with nature and the body, a shifting state that often moves from estranged and distorted to intimate and reverential.

Westerbeke’s interest in abstraction is rooted in Gaston Bachelard’s writings on the oneiric and “psychic weight.” Bachelard proposed that certain imagery, forms and objects have an immediate intimacy, causing one to delve into personal memory. In this way, Morphology is a prompt for the viewer, an exploration of the potential in—and possible intimacy of—indeterminate forms.

Julia Westerbeke is a Brooklyn-based artist who has exhibited locally and throughout California, including the de Young Museum in San Francisco and the Oceanside Museum of Art. She received her MFA from the University of California, San Diego, and her BA from Barnard College of Columbia University.

For more information on the artist, please visit www.juliawesterbeke.com