The basic structure of most plants is pretty simple—leaves, twigs, thorns and so on. These individual parts are both universal—all thorns are about the same—but at the same time, each is different. In the same manner, all *rubus allegheniensis* blackberry plants are recognizably the same species, but each is absolutely unique in its growth form, since the unit pieces can be combined in countless ways. This theme, repetition with variation, has anchored my work for decades (and in fact describes much of traditional printmaking).

My current system of working is to make close observational studies, extract vignettes for relief stamps, and then use the relief stamps in conjunction with other material to make work that refers back to the original *rubus allegheniensis* blackberry plants.

Leigh Ann Beavers  
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