



Adaptation - Local Notes

October 10 - November 22, 2024

Adaptation – Local Notes

gathers the works of 13 artists based in and around the Allegheny County region to examine our communal ability to influence, intersect, and adapt to natural and human-made ecosystems. With these artworks, artists demonstrate how the organic or synthetic materials available in such sites often affect our relationships with each other and the places we inhabit.

These artists explore our interdependence with the environment through heterogeneous approaches and encourage viewers to consider the interstitial spaces and lines of communication within. For instance, the works of Melissa Catanese, Finn Dugan, and Adrienne Borkowski are captivated by the hidden stories of plant life, the underwater world, the architecture of bird nests, and the biorhythm of invasive species. Investigations into the landscape—utilizing tree branches, soil, clay, and charcoal—are in the sculptures by Tammy Skiver Maxson, Manami Ishimura, and Elizabeth Scutt and Karen Antonelli's photography. More speculative narratives are told through manufactured and daily objects, as in the works by Barbara Weissberger, Jonathan Lohr, Sean P. Morrissey, and April Friges. Unexpected interpretations are in Loring Taoka's painting and the video essay by Anisha Baid.

Adaptation – Local Notes tells interlaced stories about times and geographies—from socioeconomic concerns to biological processes and post-deindustrialized communities in the aftermath of urban renewal, the diversity of plants, and the bodies of water coexisting with technological intervention—with a focus on some of the cultural issues shaping Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

This exhibition is juried by Michaela Blanc and organized by Nina Friedman, *Director*, Tomayko Foundation.

The *Adaptation Screening Program* presents the cinematic compositions of seven artists working in myriad time-based processes – from animation to documentary, visual poetry, and sound. Participating artists include Andrew W. Allison, Anisha Baid, Catherine Drabkin, Chantal DeSouza-Feitosa, Inbar Hagai, Lorenzo Baker, and Ségolène Pihut. This one night film screening will be held at Silver Eye Center for Photography on October 16 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. This event is free and open to the public.



Tammy Maxson
Underbelly , 2023 project soil, pasture soil 23 x 23 in.

NFS



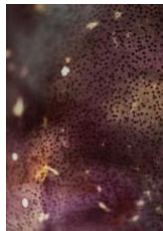
Melissa Catanese
zucchini blossom, 2024
Lumen Print mounted on sintra
7.25 x 9.75 in.

\$ 900.00



Melissa Catanese
Carpenter Bee, 2021/2024
Pigment print mounted on sintra
5.5 x 7.75 in.

\$ 325.00



Melissa Catanese
California kelp, 2024
Pigment Print mounted on sintra
8.75 x13 in.
1 + 1 AP

\$ 500.00



Melissa Catanese
Spotted lantern fly wing
silver gelatin print mounted on sintra
7.25 x 9.75 in.
1 + 1 AP

\$ 750.00



Melissa Catanese
Daylily petals, 2023
Lumen print mounted on sintra
5.25 x 7.25 in.

\$ 80.00



Melissa Catanese
Maple Seeds, 2024
Silver gelatin print mounted on sintra
8 x 10 in.
1 + 1 AP

\$ 750.00



Melissa Catanese
Spotted woodpecker feather, 2024
silver gelatin print mounted on sintra
6 x 9 in.
1 + 1 AP

\$ 750.00



Adrienne Borkowski
Lévidence, 2023
A freestanding sculpture consisting of a found white-eyed vireo nest that has been re-woven by the artist to a branch.
20 x 14 x 14 in.

\$6,000.00



Loring Taoka
Dummy, 2024
Acrylic on Birch
36 x 36 in.

\$ 4,400.00



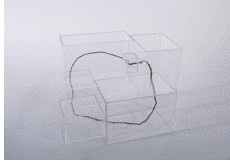
Loring Taoka
I Want It All (Gimme), 2024
Acrylic on Birch
36 x 36 in.

\$ 4,400.00



Karen Antonelli
Long Division V, 2019-2022
Archival digital print, graphite, charcoal, metallic crayon
34 x 17.5 in.

\$ 3,750.00



Manami Ishimura
En #3, 2024
Tree branch and acrylic
12.5 x 15 x 11 in.

\$ 600.00



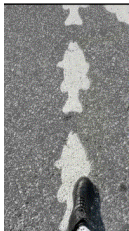
Finn Dugan
Transcendent Bioangels -- A Technomagical Ode to the Lanternfly, 2023
Vitrine, silicone, tv mount, lantern flies
20 x 8 x 9.5 in.

NFS



April Friges
In Absolute Space 316192 + Untitled Color 1016, 2023
One unique tintype on green aluminum and one unique colour darkroom print
20 ½ x 20 x 9 ⅞ in.

\$ 4,800.00



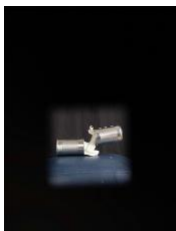
Anisha Baid
Her Solitary, 2023
Digital video and sound collage
00:06:20

\$ 500.00



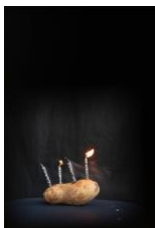
Sean P. Morrissey
15 Bricks, 2022
Risographs with padding compound (tear-away)
dimensions variable

\$0.00



Barbara Weissberger
June 17, 2024, 2024
Archival Pigment Print
18 x 13.5 in.

\$ 600.00



Barbara Weissberger
October 1, 2023, 2023
Archival Pigment Print
30 x 20 in.

\$ 900.00



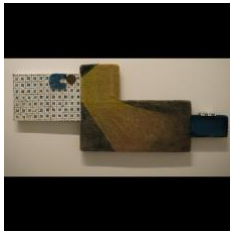
Barbara Weissberger
June 11, 2024, 2024
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18 x 13.5 in.

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Elizabeth Scutt
Sinuosity, 2023
Ceramic
9 x 10 x 22 in.

\$ 500.00



Jonathan Lohr
Protestant Work Ethic, 2022
Carpet, paint, caulking, paper

24 x 72 in.

\$ 700.00

Tammy Maxson
Underbelly, 2023



Project soil, pasture soil
23 x 23 in.
NFS

Description

Skiver Maxson's regenerative practice draws from ecofeminist worldviews and agroecological art. Her *Underbelly* is a living sculpture made of partially recuperated soil utilizing natural elements, such as carbon, water, worms, and fungi, to neutralize toxic entities in the earth of northern Pennsylvania—from a site where giant old-growth trees once lived—that no longer accommodate a diversity of plant life.

She holds an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, MA, and a BA from the University of Edinboro, PA. The artist has been an educator for 25 years.

Melissa Catanese
zucchini blossom, 2024



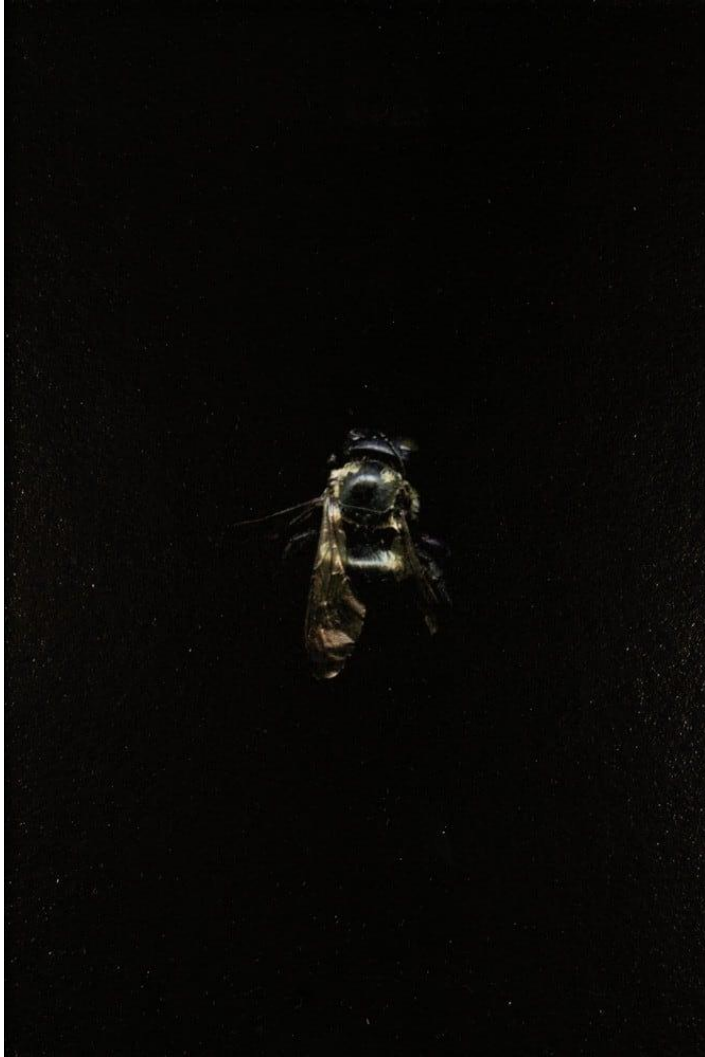
Lumen Print mounted on sintra
7.25 x 9.75 in.
\$ 900.00

Description

Catanese's work is moved by the relationships between (un)familiar geographies and the natural bodies inhabiting them— from botanicals to dead insects, kelp, and rocks. Using a variety of alchemical strategies in her photographic process, the artist weaves together image sequences that set our view on the present while conveying collective stories.

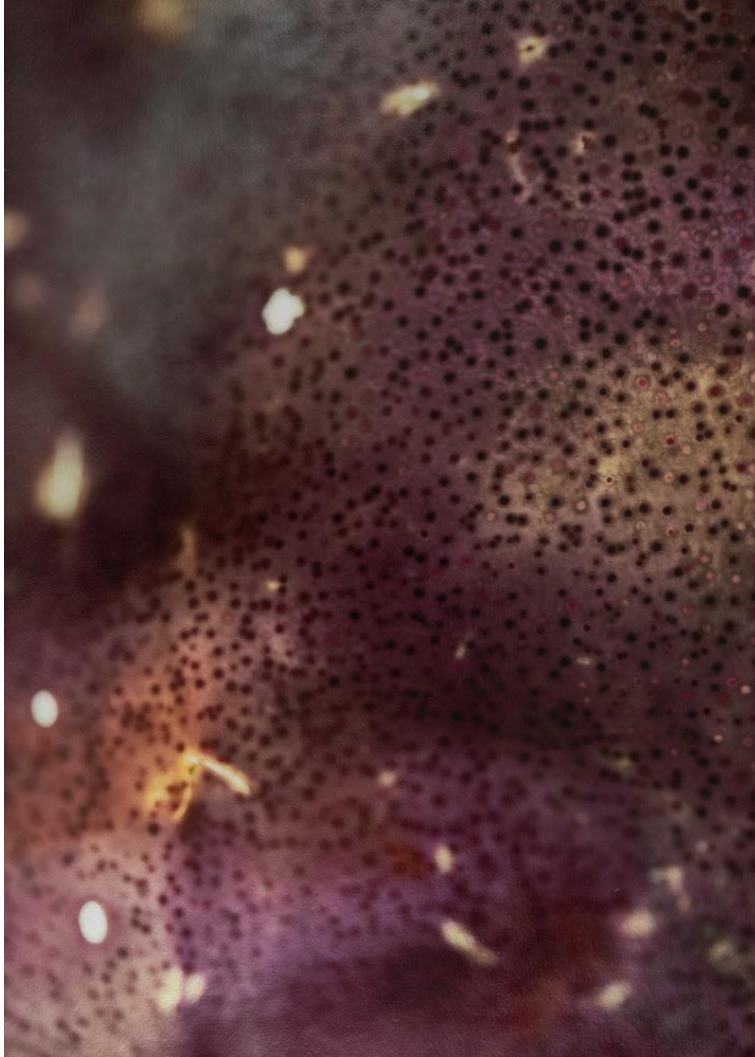
She is an Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, PA, and founder of Spaces Corners, an art publishing house. Catanese holds an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, MI, and a BFA from Columbus College of Art and Design, OH.

Melissa Catanese
Carpenter Bee, 2021/2024



Pigment print mounted on sintra
5.5 x 7.75 in.
\$ 325.00

Melissa Catanese
California kelp, 2024



Pigment Print mounted on sintra
8.75 x13 in.
1 + 1 AP
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Melissa Catanese
Spotted lantern fly wing



silver gelatin print mounted on sintra
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6 x 9 in.
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Adrienne Borkowski
Lévidence, 2023



A freestanding sculpture consisting of a found white-eyed vireo nest that has been re-woven by the artist to a branch.
20 x 14 x 14 in.
\$6,000.00

Description

Borkowski often works intuitively with offerings from the natural world, particularly the woodlands of the Appalachia region. Found intact by the artist during a walk, this White-Eyed Vireo nest—peculiar by its intricate suspension system and cup-like shape—offers a perspective into one's life cycle and notions of home.

Trained in metalsmithing, she is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, OH.

Loring Taoka
Dummy, 2024



Acrylic on Birch
36 x 36 in.
\$ 4,400.00

Description

Taoka's compositions explore visual systems, color codes, and schemes that play with the viewer's perception and imagery repertoire. These designs utilize geometry, shapes, patterns, and cultural concepts to interrogate our ability to communicate with one another. The energy in *Dummy* and *I Want It All (Gimme)* is intentional, as well as what seems present or absent from the pictorial space.

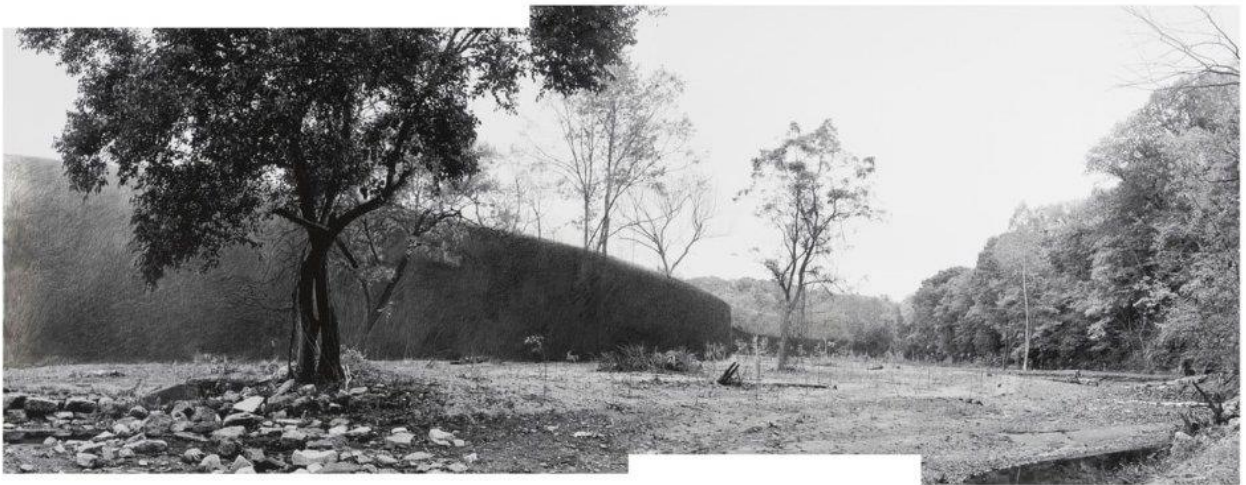
Taoka holds an MFA in Studio Art from the University of North Texas, TX, a BA in General Studies from the University of Toledo, OH, and is the Director of Fabrication at the University of Pittsburgh, PA.

Loring Taoka
I Want It All (Gimme) , 2024



Acrylic on Birch
36 x 36 in.
\$ 4,400.00

Karen Antonelli
Long Division V, 2019-2022



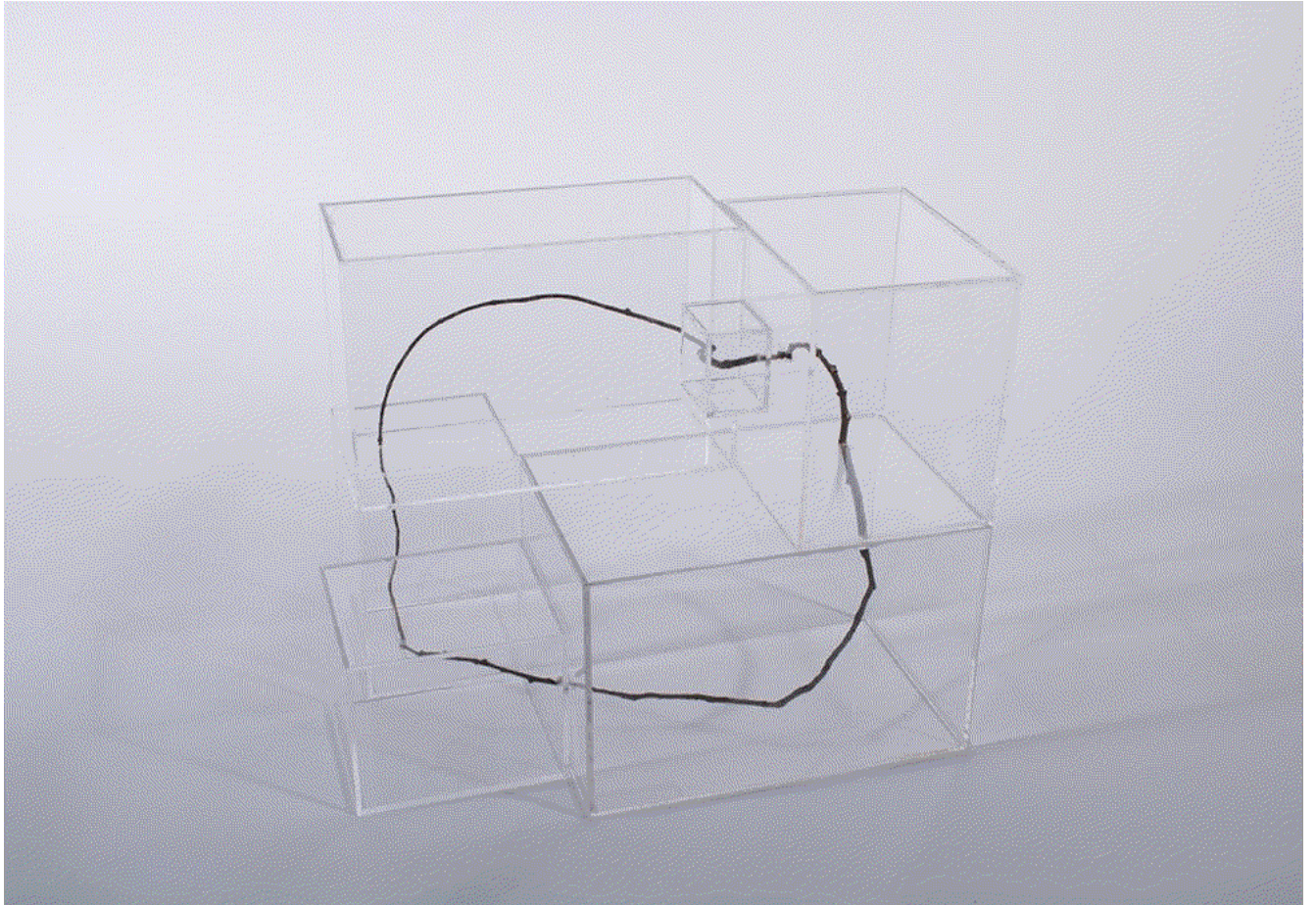
Archival digital print, graphite, charcoal, metallic crayon
34 x 17.5 in.
\$ 3,750.00

Description

This image was taken during the Nine Mile Run Watershed Regeneration project, in which invasive trees were cut down to reestablish the flow of rainwater in the valley. The Nine Mile Run, a park now owned by the city, is where Frederick Law Olmsted developed a sewage stream trailing downtown after being invited by Pittsburgh's Civic Commission to rethink the pollution crisis in 1911.

Antonelli is a Professor of Photography at Carnegie Mellon University, PA.

Manami Ishimura
En #3, 2024



Tree branch and acrylic
12.5 x 15 x 11 in.
\$ 600.00

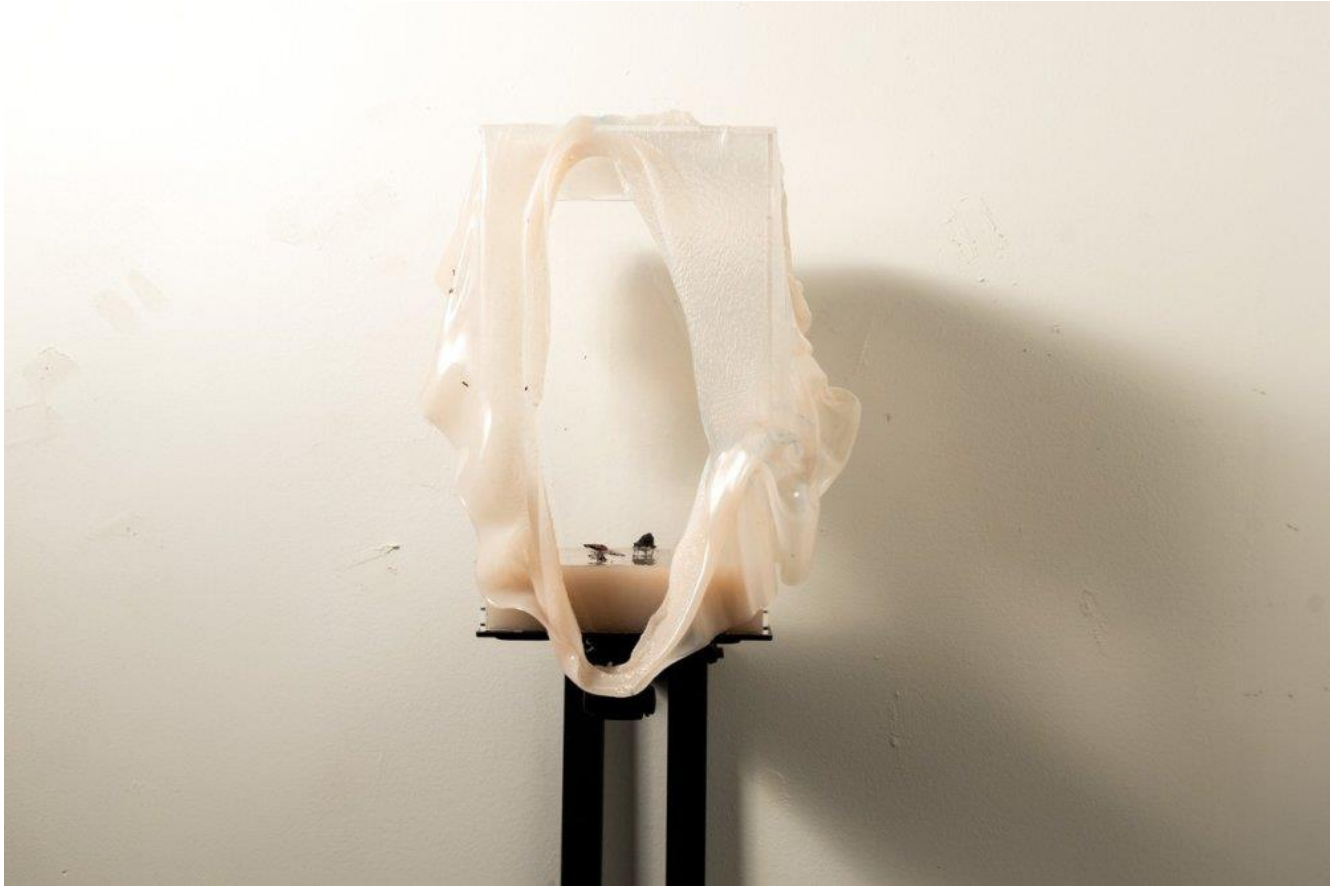
Description

The *En* series consists of trimmed branches encapsulated in translucent acrylic boxes. These boxes, which have an architectural quality, represent the dynamic coexistence and ever-evolving interactions between various natural beings and lifeless elements. In an attempt to archive and care for living organisms, it functions as a repository of potential life forms.

Ishimura is an Assistant Professor of Art at Kenyon College, OH. She holds an MFA in Sculpture and Ceramics from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and a BFA in Sculpture from Tama University, Japan.

Finn Dugan

Transcendent Bioangels -- A Technomagical Ode to the Lanternfly, 2023



Vitrine, silicone, tv mount, lanternflies
20 x 8 x 9.5 in.
NFS

Description

Drawn to liminal states, Dugan explores the mediatic and ubiquitous presence of the spotted lanternfly (SLF), an invasive insect in Allegheny County. SLFs are harmless to human health, and although they contribute to tree damage, they rarely cause tree death. In Pittsburgh, the "Tree of Heaven"—an invasive plant that thrives in distressed urban areas—serves as lanternflies' key host.

Dugan received a BA in Art Science Innovation and Physics from Allegheny College, PA.

April Friges

In Absolute Space 316192 + Untitled Color 1016, 2023



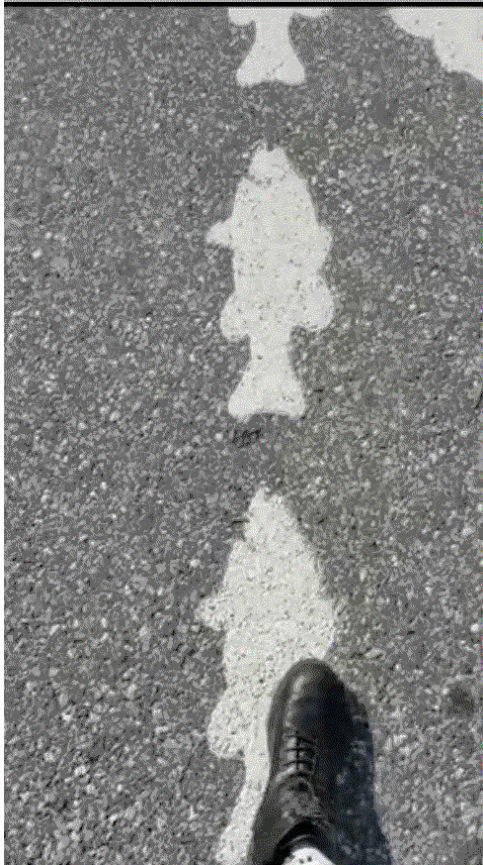
One unique tintype on green aluminum and one unique colour darkroom print
20 ½ x 20 x 9 ⅞ in.
\$ 4,800.00

Description

In Absolute Space, Friges revisits the 19th-century tintype photographic technique—known to have been created in the 1850s using a wet plate collodion—and takes a contemporary approach to alternate our understanding of this image-making process while broadening its historical viewpoint.

Friges is an Associate Professor of Photography at Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA

Anisha Baid
Her Solitary, 2023



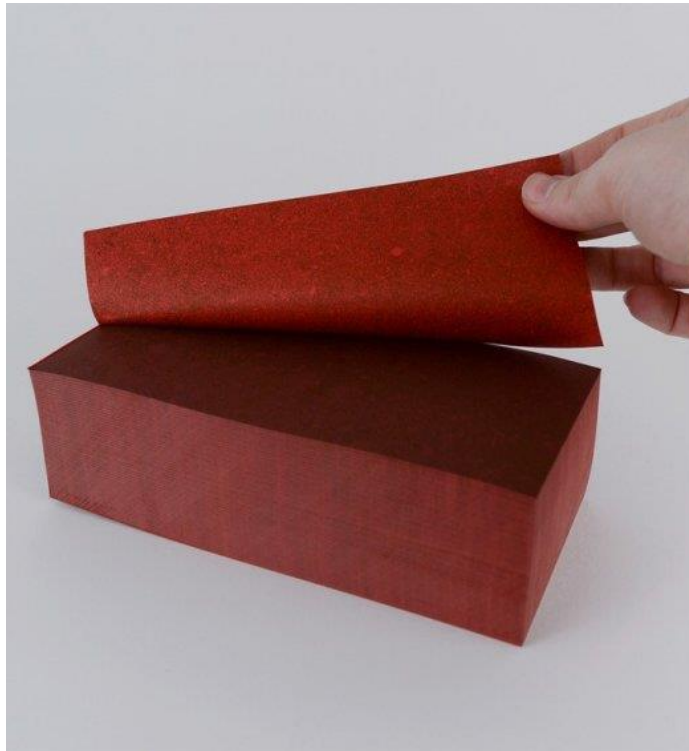
Digital video and sound collage
00:06:20
\$ 500.00

Description

Interested in gender and labor relations within digital realities and screen cultures, Baid investigates notions of agency, the pervasiveness of computer technology in our daily lives, and the implications of our interactions with machines. *Her Solitary*, a video poem, explores how we make meaning of our physical bodies in and out of the online environment.

Anisha received an MFA from the School of Art at Carnegie Mellon University, PA, and a Bachelor of Creative Arts from the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore, India.

Sean P. Morrissey
15 Bricks, 2022



Risographs with padding compound (tear-away)
dimensions variable
\$0.00

Description

Bricks comments on homeownership aspirations and access in the US housing market, as well as its intersections with consumer culture. It questions our sense of self when, more often than not, homogeneous design choices and synthetic materials dictate decision-making, domestic spaces, and how we orient ourselves in civic life.

Morrissey is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, PA. They received an MFA in Printmaking from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE, and a BFA in Two-Dimensional Studies from Bowling Green State University, OH.

Barbara Weissberger
June 17, 2024, 2024



Archival Pigment Print
18 x 13.5 in.
\$ 600.00

Description

The *All The Time Not In The World* series, initiated in 2022, was driven by the remoteness effect of the global pandemic on our social experiences. Informed by poetry and the literary world, Weissberger creates dynamic structures for the everyday. Her “precarious stacks” or “absurdist jokes” become photographs no more than once a day and are arranged with readily available objects—that must not be repeated—in an exercise that embodies the passage of time.

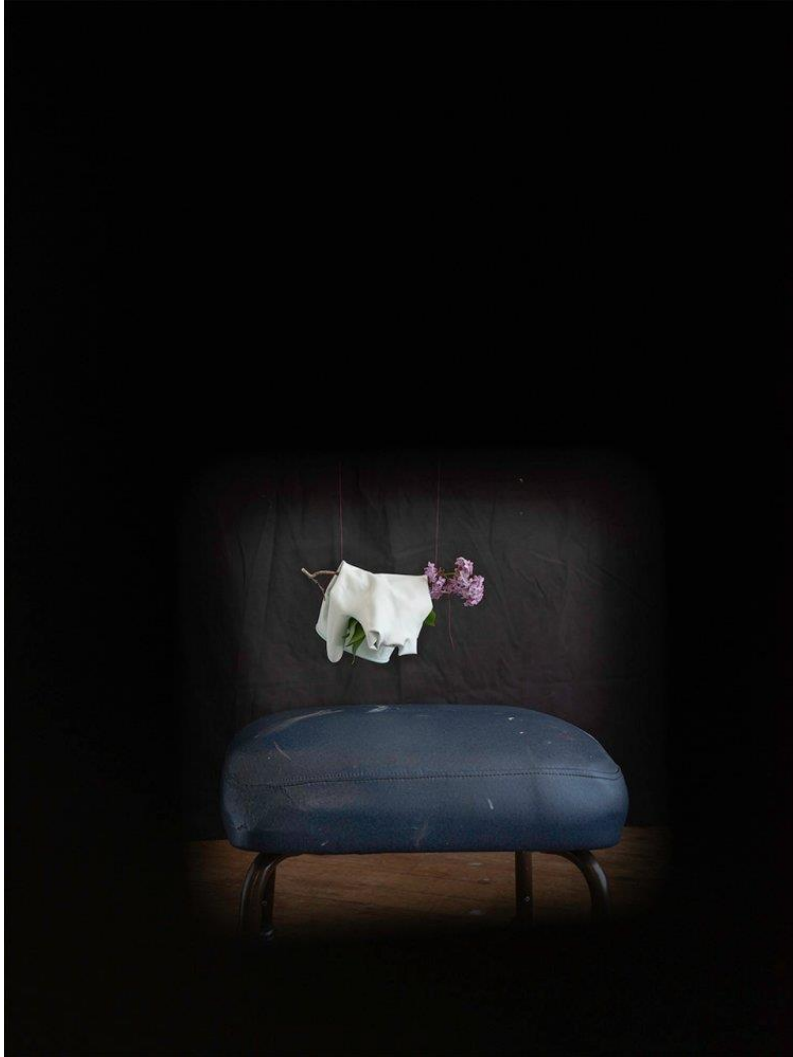
Weissberger is a Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, PA. The artist holds an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, CA.

Barbara Weissberger
October 1, 2023, 2023



Archival Pigment Print
30 x 20 in.
\$ 900.00

Barbara Weissberger
June 11, 2024, 2024



Archival Pigment Print
18 x 13.5 in.
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Elizabeth Scutt
Sinuosity, 2023



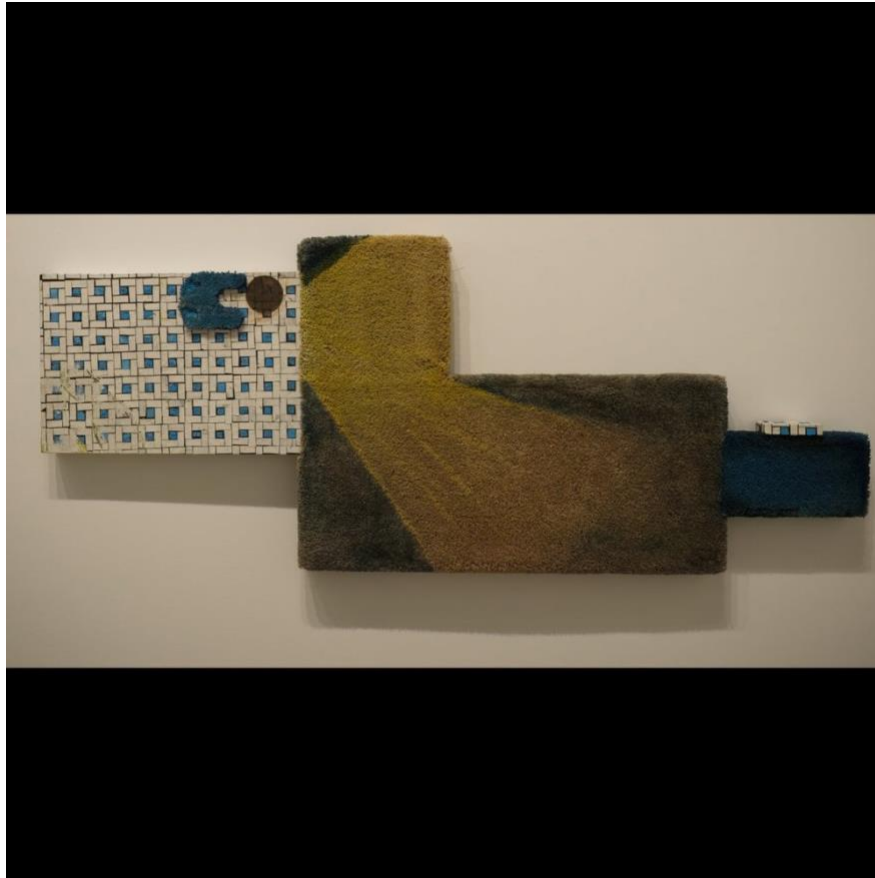
Ceramic
9 x 10 x 22 in.
\$ 500.00

Description

The artist works with locally sourced red clay harvested from Westmoreland County, PA—where she grew up and is currently based— as a way to document the earth. Her anthropomorphic ceramics production bridges conversations between human and non-human bodies about environmental ethics and our sense of place.

Scutt graduated from the Maine College of Art & Design, ME, with a minor in Sustainable Ecosystems: Art & Design in 2023.

Jonathan Lohr
Protestant Work Ethic, 2022



Carpet, paint, caulking, paper
24 x 72 in.
\$ 700.00

Description

Working across media, Lohr challenges the conventional functionalities of various construction materials and architectural fixtures—utilizing carpet, tile, and laminate flooring—to question how our lived experiences inform definitions of home and the often opaque separation between the domestic realm and labor environments.

He holds an MFA (2023) from Columbus College of Art & Design, OH, and a BFA (2017) from Edinboro University, PA.