ABOUT THE ARTIST

EDUCATION

2005  Master of Fine Arts, Photography  
      University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

1988  Bachelor of Fine Arts  
      School of Visual Arts, New York

SELECTED EXHIBITION RECORD

2012  Terra Cognita: Into the Unknown  
      Museum Belvedere, Netherlands
      Reconsidering the Photographic Masterpiece  
      University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque

2011  New Kingdoms (solo exhibition)  
      Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA
      Our Origins  
      Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago

2010  Fantastic Landscape  
      310 ConTemporary, Chicago
      Reflections on Darwin  
      Wright State University, Dayton, OH
      Hyper-Nature  
      SPACES Gallery, Cleveland, OH
      Other Worlds  
      Jupiter Arts Center, Centralia, WA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007-  Assistant Professor, Photography  
       pres.  Columbia College, Chicago

More information about Carey and her work:  
www.alisoncarey.com

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF SURGICAL SCIENCE  
1524 N. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60610  
www.imss.org

Alison Carey  
NEW KINGDOMS

STATEMENT

New Kingdoms depicts a future Earth where humans have altered the course of evolution by introducing synthetically grown organisms into the environment. This aftermath of biotechnology takes place in a post-human era where man-made life forms have adapted to the natural world. Genetically engineered beings have infiltrated the Earth’s surface developing new habitats and ecosystems within the landscape.

The sculptures in these dioramas are created to be photographed, and are made from a combination of flesh-like materials that are inorganic or no longer living. These entities are without medical purpose and are benign in their existence. Contrary to my approach, there is the potential to use tissue engineering for unorthodox purposes. Particularly unsettling is the thought that someday it may be possible to construct autonomous, functioning “beings” that are able to survive outside the controlled facilities of a research laboratory.

As the entities in my photographs colonize the terrain, the evolution of these unique species’ usher our planet into a new biological epoch in the history of life. Through cycles of hybridization, reproduction, mutation, and extinction, survival of the fittest plays out in these scenes.

Technical Information
These photographs are shot in my studio where I build and sculpt the landscapes and fleshy forms that inhabit these dioramas. Next I paint a sky background on canvas and then the whole construction is illuminated with controlled artificial light and photographed. The sets are dismantled and the images are exhibited as archival pigment prints.

– Alison Carey

This exhibition is the latest in the Museum’s ongoing “Anatomy in the Gallery” series exploring the intersection of medicine and contemporary art. More information about this program is available at www.imss.org/anatgallery.htm.

CHECKLIST

1. Microscopic View, 2007, archival pigment print, 16 x 16
2. Desert Survival, 2009, archival pigment print, 36 x 20
3. Flesh Tree Hybrid, 2010, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
4. Flesh Buds, 2009, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
5. Migration, 2009, archival pigment print, 22 x 20
6. Unidentified Organ, 2012, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
7. Generator, 2011, archival pigment print, 34 x 20
8. Cross Sections, 2008, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
9. Flesh Forms, 2009, archival pigment print, 12 x 12
10. Flesh Leaf Hybrid, 2010, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
11. Graze, 2009, archival pigment print, 22 x 20
12. Flesh Pods, 2007-2011, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
13. Flesh and Bone, 2007-2011, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
14. Starflowers, 2010, archival pigment print, 22 x 20
15. Radial Veins, 2012, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
17. Growths, 2012, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
18. Cellular Structure, 2012, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
20. Blood Vessels, 2007-2011, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
21. Artery, 2012, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
22. Arterial Graft, 2008, archival pigment print, 12 x 12
23. Veins, 2012, archival pigment print, 12 x 16
24. Organ Growth, 2012, archival pigment print, 20 x 16
25. Skeleton Stones, 2011, archival pigment print, 24 x 20

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