

## NOTHING SPECIAL

*The basic problem in artistic endeavor is the tendency to split the artist from the audience and then try to send a message from one to the other. (Chogyam Trungpa)*

*The multiplicity of choices and the individual responsibility for creating a life from those choices adds to the sense that each person is "special". This has several mutually reinforcing ramifications. It makes narrative coherence a greater challenge than in cultures with fewer choices, and it increases the sense of isolation among persons, except to the extent that they can share their "individual" qualities" and perspectives. ( Anne Carolyn Klein: 2008; 30 )*

*The picture... is but a succession or variety of stronger lights thrown upon one part of the paper, and of deeper shadows on another. Now Light, where it exists, can exert an action. - William Henry Fox Talbot, 1000 Photo Icons by Anthony Bannon (Foreword), George Eastman House*

Seeing things as they are is tremendously difficult. Most often to have them in front of your eyes it is not enough.

Through this artwork the artist creates a container that allows the public to be mindful in front of the things that are presented to them, therefore cultivate that quality valued and sought by the artist that is simplicity.

The work does not intend to be literally “ an exhibition”. The artist and the public are co-creating the work. The public is considered by the artist to be equally creative and significant through its mindful presence.

The container proposed by the artist consists in the exhibition space that will be structured through 5 series of digital images that will support the presentation and work at 5 stations / where the materials that serve as a basis for the production of digital images will be presented.

The materials are the following: black pepper, popcorn, semi-precious stones, hair of the artist and dried flowers, wheat milk.

The process of creating the digital images accords special attention to a humble daily gesture usually unobserved by people, though highly recurrent in the artistic process: the gesture of mindfully placing objects on a surface in order to be seen by the light. This is the starting point of the work as well as the closing gesture of this work. It is the gesture that I imagined Fox Talbot used while creating his first photogenic drawings ( images that were included in his book *The Pencil of Nature*).

The rest of the work it is done by light itself - that is creating one of the possible images that can be created . In this case we speak about the light of a scanner.

The resulted images are digitally processed through a layering process that supports a stream of consciousness which brings to the surface certain associations significant for the artist. The associations will function as titles/labels of the images.

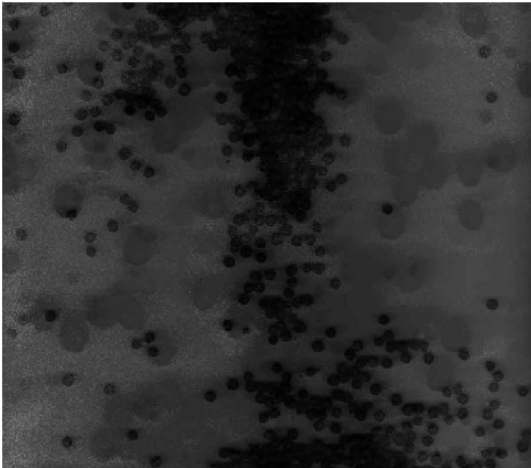
The image processing allows a revisiting/recollection of the Pictorialists aesthetics ( such as the work of Anne Brigman). Even though in the context of contemporary photography the temptation of colour as a way to emulate painting it is a non-sense, from my point of view color still make sense for its capacity of creating images that carry with them and can evoke the generosity of the landscapes .( even when the work it is just about a handful of matter). The color also supports the associations with fragments of texts, concepts or emotions that are meaningful for the artist and which the artist considers to be things with which any person from the public can relate easily.

The role of the artist at this stage is mainly to witness the process that is taking place and to select from the multiple visual associations possible the ones that can aesthetically bear the associations with the text. The chosen texts – being them concepts, words that denote emotions or quotations- are the source of the work's conceptual framework . It comes from Buddhist classical philosophy- including quotes from renowned masters such as the Indian philosopher Nagarjuna as well as the Gelug master lama Tsongkapa. Also they are chosen in such a way that any person could relate easily with them.

The main issues the texts are pointing towards are those of : impermanence, anger and infatuation, regret, self-grasping and compassion.

The 5 stations will present the 5 chosen materials placed into 5 containers. Thos ewill be simple identical cups inscribed with the same text that says *I Am So Special* . The public will be invited to empty the cups placing mindfully the matter on a provided square piece of blue cloth – reiterating the gesture of the artist.

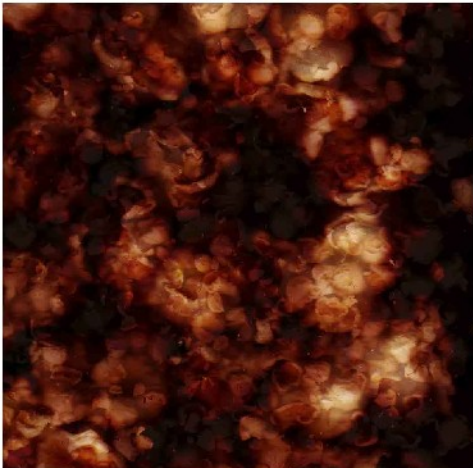
To participate to the creative work the public needs simply to be mindful while doing the gesture, while subsequently to reflect on the similarities and differences we all have in the way we relate to a given space and a particular set of fleeting conditions.



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02\_lvanciu \_pietre.jpg



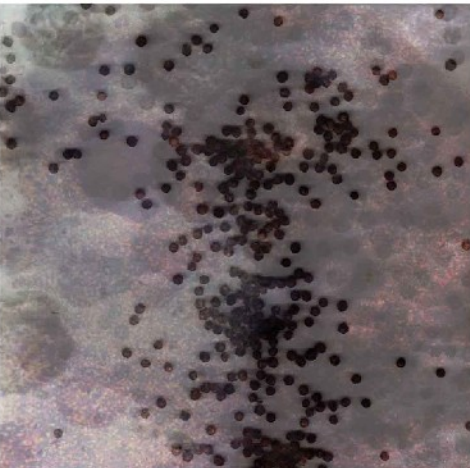
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04\_lvanciu \_faratext.jpg



05\_lvanciu \_grasping.jpg



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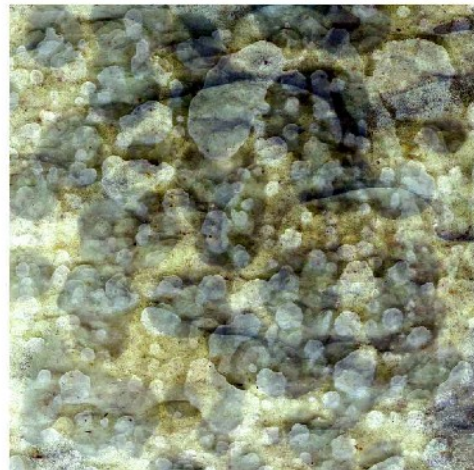
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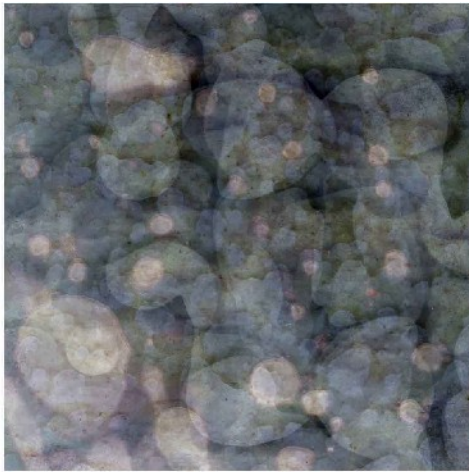
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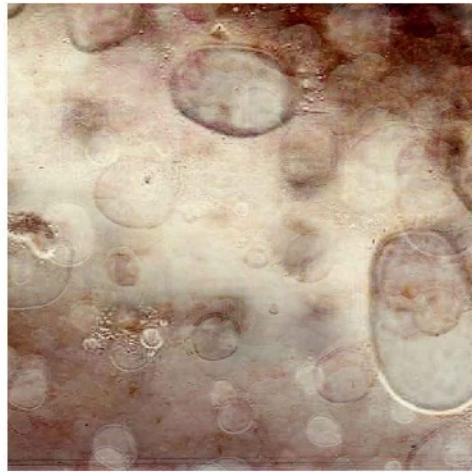
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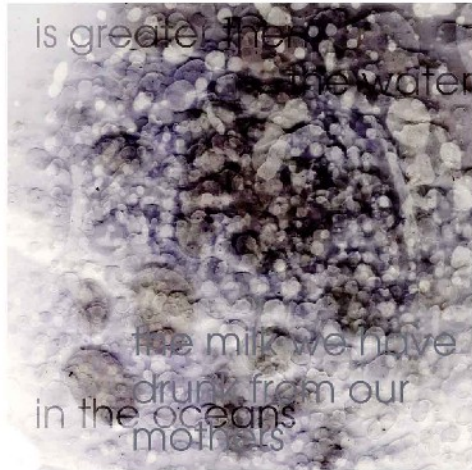
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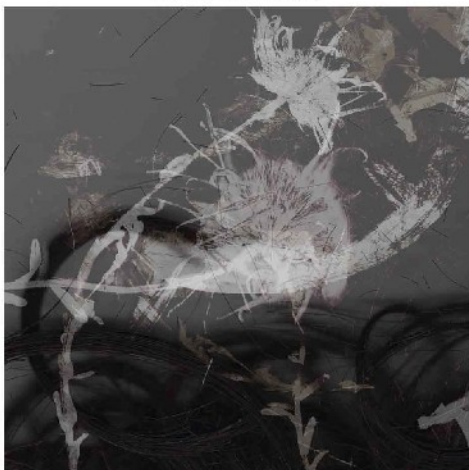


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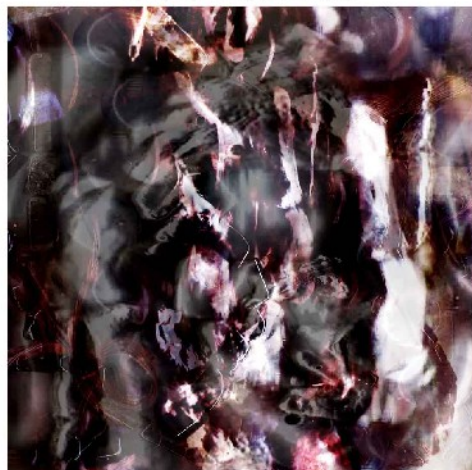


is greater than  
the water  
the milk we have  
drunk from our  
in the oceans  
mothers

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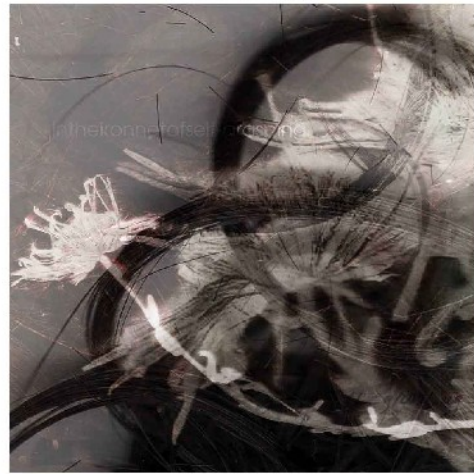
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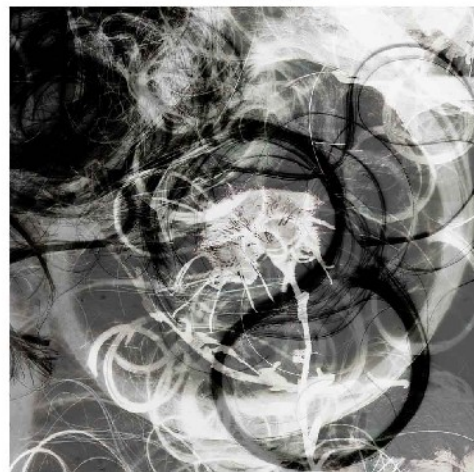
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