

THOMAS JACKSON

Emergent Behavior

The hovering installations featured in this ongoing series of photographs are inspired by self-organizing, "emergent" systems in nature such as termite mounds, swarming locusts, schooling fish and flocking birds. The images attempt to tap the mixture of fear and fascination that those phenomena tend to evoke, while creating an uneasy interplay between the natural and the manufactured and the real and the imaginary. At the same time, each image is an experiment in juxtaposition. By constructing the installations from unexpected materials and placing them where they seem least to belong, I aim to tweak the margins of our visual vocabulary, and to invite fresh interpretations of everyday things.

The Robot Series

In this series of photographs, I've combined elements of science fiction literature and film with storytelling motifs from Medieval tapestries and altarpieces to create a darkly humorous narrative about a lone robot's failure to co-exist with the natural world. Against that backdrop, the work explores the uneasy, opposing emotions Mother Nature provokes in us: fear and fascination, reverence and contempt, attraction, revulsion, greed, guilt and the queasy feeling that in the end, she will get us back for everything we've done wrong. I chose to build the series around a robot because he seemed an apt representation of our otherness within the natural world, and a stand-in for our ceaseless desire to force our environment into permanent submission—no matter how doomed the effort might be.

Thomas Jackson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. After earning a B.A. in History from the College of Wooster, he spent much of his career in New York as an editor and book reviewer for magazines. It was his particular interest in photography books that led him to pick up a camera, first shooting Garry Winogrand-inspired street scenes, then landscapes, and finally the installation work he does today. His work has been shown at The Center for Book Arts in New York, the Governors Island Art Fair, the Gallery at Eponymy in Brooklyn and Industria Superstudios in New York. Jackson was named one of the Critical Mass Top 50 in 2012, and won the "installation/still-life" category of PDN's The Curator award in 2013. He lives in San Francisco.

CV

BACKGROUND

b. 1971 Philadelphia, PA
1993 Bachelor of Arts, History, The College of Wooster

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2014 CENTER *Curator's Choice Award*, Second Place
2014 ONWARD *Compé '14*, juror's award winner
2014 *Wondrous Indeed*, Center for Fine Art Photography, juror's selection
2014 *The National*, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Juror's Merit Award
2013 *Art Takes Paris*, See.me, winner of "Photography" category
2013 PDN *The Curator*, winner of "Installation/still-life" category
2013 Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts, Brush Creek, Wyoming
2012 Critical Mass Top 50

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 *Emergent Behavior*, Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
2017 *Emergent Behavior*, Cynthia-Reeves, North Adams, MA
2016 *Emergent Behavior*, Miller Yezerski Gallery, Boston, MA
2015 *Emergent Behavior*, Dina Mitrani Gallery, Miami, FL
2015 *Emergent Behavior*, Photo-eye Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Phenomenon*, The Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, CA
- 2017 *The Photography Show* (AIPAD), Jackson Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2017 *Unnatural Phenomena* (with Alejandra Laviada), Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design
- 2016 *Art Miami*, Cynthia-Reeves, Miami, FL
- 2015 *The Disrupted Landscape*, Miller Yezerski Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2015 *Scope Basel*, Cynthia-Reeves, Basel, Switzerland
- 2014 *Art Miami*, Cynthia-Reeves, Miami, FL
- 2014 *The Curve*, Center for Contemporary Arts, Sante Fe, NM
- 2014 *The Fence*, United Photo Industries, Brooklyn, NY, Boston, MA and Atlanta, GA
- 2014 *Photography Now*, juried by Julie Grahame, The Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, NY
- 2014 *ONWARD Compé '14*, juried by Andrew Moore, Project Basho, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 *Wondrous Indeed*, juried by Philip Toledano, The Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO
- 2014 *The National*, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
- 2013 *Well Hung*, The Print Center Annual Auction, Philadelphia, PA
- 2013 PDN The Curator group show, Industria Superstudios, New York, NY
- 2013 Emerging Artist Auction, Daniel Cooney Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 Critical Mass group show, curated by W.M. Hunt, Jennifer Schwartz Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia and Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Florida
- 2013 *Intro*, La Fototeca, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- 2013 Fountain Art Fair, with Arcilesi-Homberg Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2012 The Gallery at Eponymy, curated by Amani Olu, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 Take Me There (MOPLA), Venice Arts Gallery, Venice, CA
- 2012 Angkor Photo Festival, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- 2011 The Governors Island Art Fair, New York, NY
- 2011 The (un)Framed Photograph, The Center for Book Arts, New York, NY

COLLECTIONS

- 2016 Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA
- 2015 Berkshire Partners, Boston, MA
- 2014 Rotch Library at MIT, Cambridge, MA
- 2014 The Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, MA
- 2013 United Talent Agency, Los Angeles, CA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 The New Yorker
- 2015 Harper's
- 2013 Wired
- 2013 Photo District News
- 2013 Tricycle Magazine
- 2013 American Photo Magazine
- 2012 The Artist Catalogue
- 2012 M/I/S/C magazine
- 2011 The Huffington Post