



Looking Back, 2014, Left: anothotype, 27 1/2 x 22 in, Right: silver gelatin print, 27 1/2 x 28 5/8 in, Edition of 3 + AP

MEDIA ALERT:

Christine Elfman: Fix and Fade

June 5 - August 2, 2014

Gallery Reception: Thursday, June 5, 2014, 6-8 pm

**Gallery Wendi Norris
161 Jessie Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of works by artist Christine Elfman, recipient of the 2014 San Francisco Artist Award.

Through a selection of photographs and paintings, Elfman's *Fix and Fade* explores the longing for stability while acknowledging the reality of change. Working with the traditional processes of anothotype and flower hunting as well as contemporary forms of photography, Elfman's works occupy various states of material stability. The anothotype, first suggested in 1842, is a photographic image created using paper coated with a photosensitive plant extract. After placing a thin material on top, the composite is exposed to sunlight. The coating begins to fade, leaving behind a shadow image of the shielding material. Generated from the

disintegration of the plant extracts, anothotype photographs are ephemeral by nature. Flower hunting, appropriates fugitive plant colors to produce classical trompe l'oeil images of flowers in the classical tradition of Dutch still lives and botanical illustrations. Like anothotype, this technique produces vulnerable images, prone to degradation.

In the diptych "Looking Back," a fading anothotype made of a rose petal emulsion, depicts a partially veiled female head from a fragment of ancient Greek marble statuary. The image is juxtaposed with a candid silver gelatin print of the artist's friend, her face similarly obscured. Poignant in their resemblance, the two images place each other in relief, highlighting the passage of time and the consistency of the artistic gesture.

Emphasizing the tension between producing imagery as a form of posterity and material's tendency towards decomposition, the works in *Fix and Fade* ultimately accept the impossibility of rendering anything as permanent or invariable.

About the Artist

Christine Elfman is a Bay Area artist working in photography, painting and film. Originally from the Philadelphia area, Elfman holds a BFA in Painting from Cornell University and an MFA in Photography from the California College of the Arts (CCA). She received the San Francisco Foundation Murphy and Cadogan Fellowship, the Graduate Merit Scholarship at CCA, and the Center for Emerging Visual Artists Fellowship. Residencies include the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts in Ithaca, NY and the Faculty Medal of Art from the Cornell University Art Department. She has taught photography at CCA, Foothill College, The Berkeley Art Studio, and City College of San Francisco.

About the Award

Created as a bi-annual juried award to honor and support San Francisco Bay Area artists, the San Francisco Artist Award acknowledges a deserving and under-recognized local artist with a solo exhibition at Gallery Wendi Norris with the aim of exposing her to a broad range of international press, curators, and collectors.

This year, a wide range of Bay Area art professionals nominated approximately 30 local artists. The independent jury selected by Gallery Wendi Norris included Jim Campbell, Artist; Tad Freese, Collector; Christina Linden, Independent Curator and Writer, and Monica Ramirez Montagut, Associate Director and Senior Curator at Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA). This year, five semi-finalists were named alongside Christine Elfman, including Terry Berlier, Alicia Escott, Julia Goodman, Mark Baugh-Sasaki, and Wafaa Yasin.