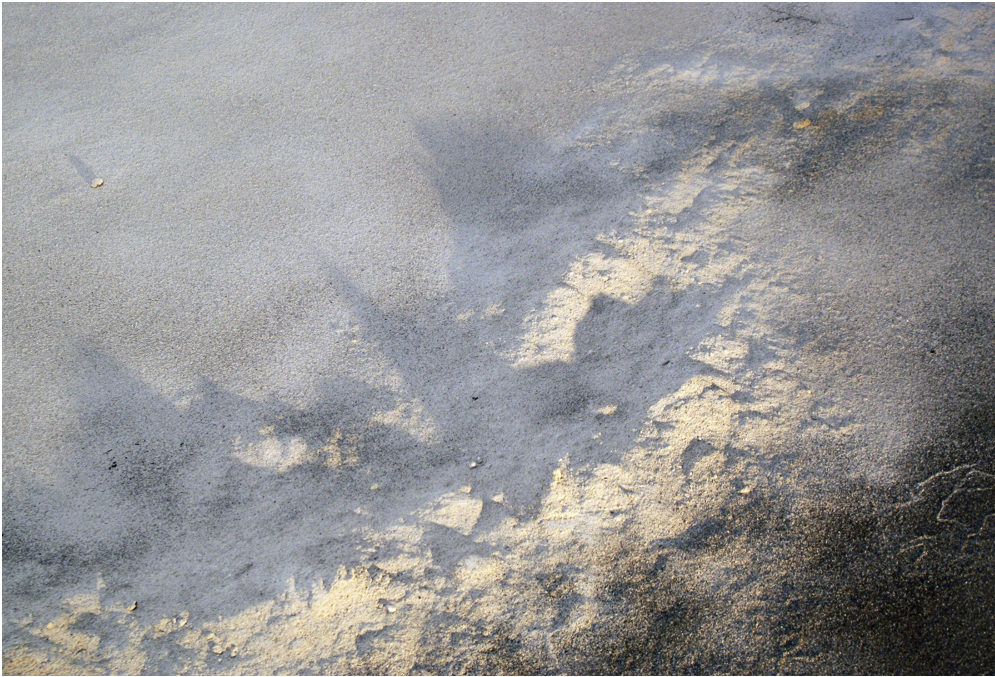




Meredith Foster: Fire & Fat

Presented by Teen Museum Studies



Meredith Foster, *Fire & Fat*; part of *Topographies*, No. 1-4., 2016.
Photographic print, dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist.

The students of CAM's 2017 Teen Museum Studies program present *Meredith Foster: Fire & Fat*. Foster creates evocative large-scale images that prompt us to reflect on our perception of nature through the re-contextualization of diverse natural elements such as fire, ash, and fat.

Inspired by environmental and social concerns, Foster's diverse visual language comes together in three works viewed in the intimate setting of the Education Gallery. Sprawling gold leaf paint is delicately utilized in a piece that reflects gold's complicated history as a

resource. Large-scale digital prints contrast between the life-generating elements of light and sky and the harmful properties of fire and ash. Suggestive rather than accusatory, *Fire & Fat* prompts us to consider our sometimes destructive presence in relation to the natural.

Held each summer, Teen Museum Studies offers a select group of high school students the opportunity to learn from CAM staff members in all departments and culminates in the teens organizing an exhibit from start to finish.

Artist Statement

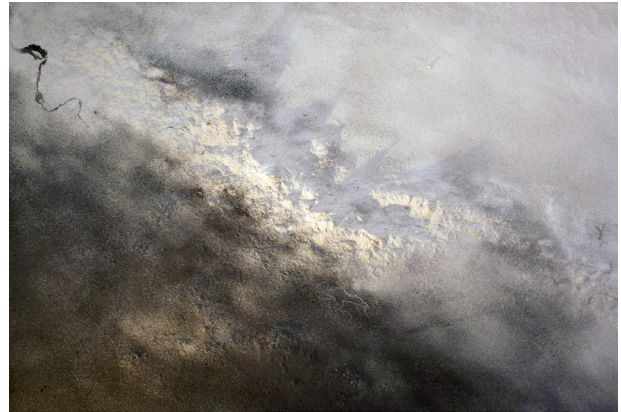
Nature and perception are my schematic sources from which I focus on common, yet emotive elements of the natural world that are simultaneously beautiful and ominous. Using photographs, sculpture, and painting media, I'm attempting to transform materials into evocative configurations that mingle matter and reflection. Images of forests, water, fire, and even fat—are patterned into formations of gold leaf, lumber, ash, and ice in an attempt to create objects and images that mingle a sense of absence and presence, nature and artifice, and subject and object. Rather than always referring to a particular landscape per se, I'm trying to create a visual catalyst that prompts our thinking of places and how we imagine them. I'm much more interested in the construction of ideas about landscape and its ability to become a mirror to nearly everything else.

To this point, many of the works I create are topographical installations and models whose many iterations function as both the subject of digital photographs as well as site-specific installations. Consisting of an amalgam of sifted ash and charcoal made from both the collection and processing of local non-native woody plant material and the sooty remains of seasonal prairie burns, the sifted material is configured into topographic maps through a combination of layers and stenciled imagery. This is followed by imposing an approximation of elemental forces on the sifted material, resulting in a simulacrum of the subtle and mysterious patterns of the natural world. Each iteration is manifested differently, but the juxtaposition of control and chance employed during their assembly underscores that landscape is a nexus of transformation between various states of matter reflecting both the competing and congruent forces of human desire and natural phenomena.

Related Programs

Zen Contemplative Meditation

Friday, August 4, 5:30 and 6:00pm



Meredith Foster, *Fire & Fat, part of Topographies, No. 1-4*, 2016. Photographic print, dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist.

Teen Museum Studies, now in its eighth year, is an innovative program that gives teens unique access to the inner workings of a museum. During the six-week program, students work closely with CAM staff to learn all aspects of museum administration—from curating to public relations to accounting. For the culmination of the program, the teens handle all aspects of an exhibition, including reviewing artists' proposals, participating in studio visits, selecting the winning artist, and assisting with the work's installation. Students who successfully complete the program receive a paid stipend.

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Anna Brackett
Avian Duke
Sarah Ferrara
Lilly Hayward
Oliver Kanak

Kate Malinak
Michael LLOYD
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