

Formicidae

February 12 - March 26

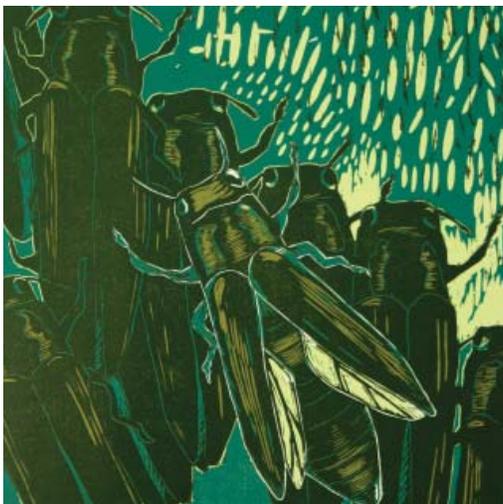
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery
University of North Georgia





Morgan Chivers has introduced found insect remains into a mass of hot, crystal clear glass, returning the corpus to its elemental constituents. Though the individuality was destroyed by heat in the “Unending Cycle of an Untitled Cosmos” sculptures, everything that made the organism what it was is still entirely present within the glass egg on display. Chivers earned Bachelors of Fine Arts in both Spatial Arts and Photography, and Bachelors of Arts in Global Studies and History from San Jose State University. Chivers is currently pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts in Glass from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Jamie Kovach’s “Sweet Nothings” series plays with nostalgia for childhood cravings for all things sugary and the adult hesitancy to gratify these cravings. The “Sweet Nothings” photographs feature desserts mimicking romanticized homemade treats adorned with “invertebrate passengers that both disgust and entice the viewer,” such as delicious-looking French crullers topped grasshoppers. The artist writes “the hitchhiking critters mirror the unavoidable blemish on our sentimental recollections.” Kovach earned an MFA in Visual Art from the University of New Mexico, and a BFA in Photography from Savannah College of Art and Design.

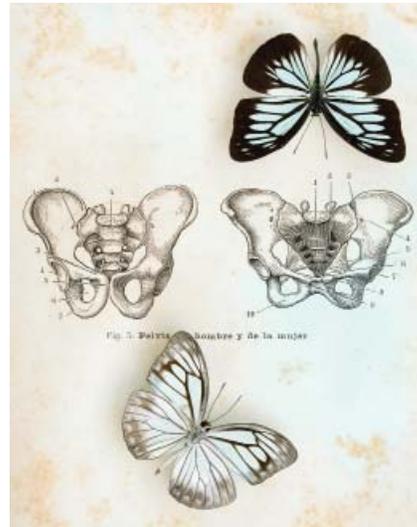


Clarissa Plank’s reduction woodcut prints focus on insect pests that she is familiar with from growing up in Pennsylvania. She is interested in two aspects of the insect: its creepy, fear-inducing qualities and the patterns found in insect forms that are used by the fashion and design industry. Plank creates multiples to “echo our fear of being overrun by things beyond our control.” Plank earned a MFA in Printmaking from the State University of New York at New Paltz, and a BA in Art Education from Ithaca College. Plank is currently the Printmaker-in-Residence at Pratt Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute in Utica, NY.



Wanda Sullivan is drawn to the infinite patterns of butterflies, and to the fragility of their physical presence. Sullivan paints butterfly wing patterns in the shape of ginkgo leaves, highlighting the similarities in their design, and alluding to the “interconnected relationship of all life.” The artist says in her statement: “I recently read that six ginkgo trees were all that survived the epicenter of the Hiroshima bombings. Those six trees are still alive today. For this reason, they are symbols of hope, strength, and resilience.” Sullivan earned a MFA in Painting from the University of Mississippi and a BFA in Painting from the University of South Alabama. She is currently Associate Professor of Art at Spring Hill College, in Mobile, Alabama.

Jo Whaley is exhibiting three images from her well-known book “Theater of Insects.” These photographs feature insects in imaginary, altered habitats which Whaley creates, inspired by dioramas in natural history museums and an 18th century cabinet of curiosities. She appropriately approaches her still-life set as a theatrical stage; Whaley formerly earned her living working as a scenic artist, where she learned “Theater is the lie that tells the truth.” Whaley earned an MFA in Painting, an MA in Visual Design/Photography, and a BA in Art from the University of California, Berkeley. Her work has been exhibited across the United States and in Europe and is included in numerous prominent public collections.



Joshua White uses his iPhone to capture the images in “A Photographic Survey of the American Yard,” while exploring the plants, insects, and animals found in his immediate area. White originally felt the exploration was a diversion from his larger body of work, which deals with memory and loss. But on further consideration, he found a connection to childhood activities: lying on his stomach watching ants in the grass, collecting June bugs off his mother’s wild roses in Styrofoam cups, waiting for the sound of cicadas in the summer dusk, and catching lightning bugs in a pickle jar. The stark images presented in “A Photographic Survey of the American Yard” link the viewer to these memories, too. White earned an MFA in Photography from Arizona State University, and a BFA in Photography from Northern Kentucky University. He is currently Assistant Professor at Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina.

The Moth Project

by Jeff Schmuki and Wendy DesChene

March 25, lecture at 7pm



Wendy DesChene and Jeff Schmuki have been collaborating on projects since they met at a residency in 2009. The Moth Project is a series of portable nighttime garden machines designed to attract moths for pollination underscoring the decline of honeybee populations. These gardens use small, off the grid, solar panel systems to charge deep cycle batteries during the day. In the evening, power inverters and timers set off the garden lights designed to attract moths as well as other nighttime insects as an alternative to bees for the pollination of food crops. This public art event, which will be on UNG's Gainesville Campus on March 25, combines art and sustainability with entomological and horticultural research. DesChene earned an MFA in Painting from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, and a BFA from Concordia University, in Montreal, Canada. Schmuki earned an MFA from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and a BFA in Studio Art from Northern Arizona University.