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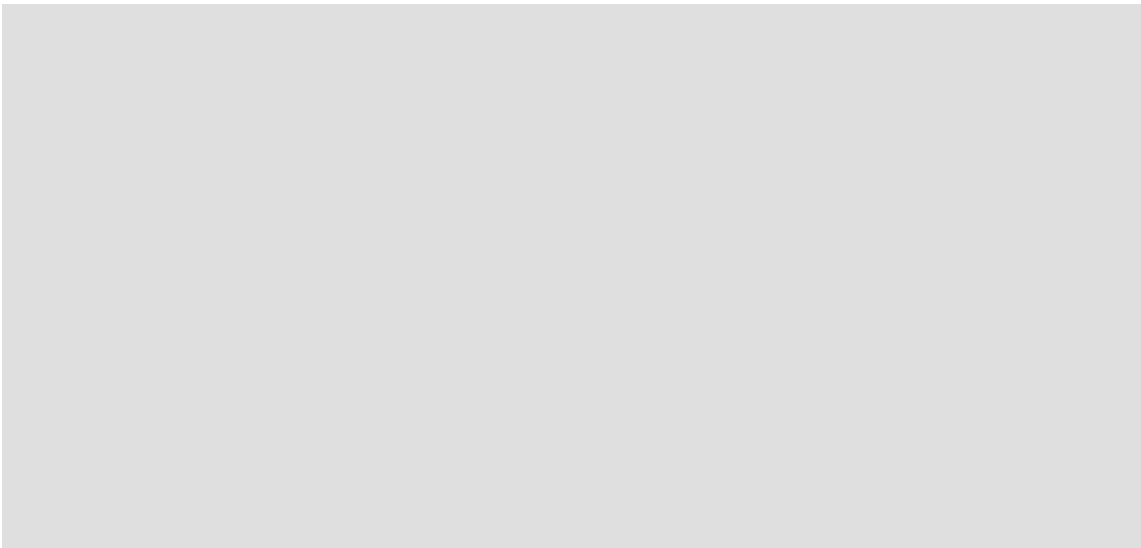
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Lisa Frank: **STILLEVEN** & Nova Czarnecki: **IT'S ONLY NATURAL**

side-by-side solo exhibitions



May 17, 2013 to June 30, 2013

Join us for a free opening reception on Friday, May 17, 5:30-7:30 pm, with talks by the artists at 6:30 pm.

Lisa Frank: STILLEVEN Lisa Frank digitally combines her close-range photographs of natural imagery into stunningly complex patterns and tableaux. While much of Frank's work is closely related to textile and wallpaper design, her most recent pieces explore the still life tradition. The title of her exhibition, *Stilleven*, is the Dutch word for *still life*, which also translates as "immobile nature." The still life painters of the 17th- and 18th-century worked quite literally from "immobile nature," creating staged compositions from life studies done in different seasons: spring tulips, summer vegetables, and autumn grapes, for example, coexisted on canvas as they never would have in nature. In a similar fashion, Frank constructs her compositions by digitally combining photographs taken throughout the year. The resulting works seamlessly merge the natural and the artificial, and marry the clear-eyed perspective of a scientist to an artist's romantic and subtly melancholic vision.

Frank is tireless in her pursuit of new subjects; she has shot nearly 10,000 photos of wild mushrooms alone, all organized into tidy categories for later retrieval. Among the hundreds of images used to create the works in *Stilleven* are photographs of reptiles from the Vilas Zoo, cacti from the UW greenhouses, toads from a Minnesota nature preserve, and birds from Olbrich Garden's conservatory. In Frank's words, "This photographic journal keeping forms a personal, arbitrary, asymmetrical time chart that is deeply resonant for me and key to my understanding of what it means to be alive and of this world."

Nova Czarnecki: *IT'S ONLY NATURAL* In Nova Czarnecki's paintings, nature and the body become metaphors for emotional connection and spiritual transcendence. Figures merge with the tangled limbs of trees, flocks of colorful birds, cascades of flowers, honeycombs, and oceanic tides, calmly gliding through fantastic, dreamlike landscapes. The realistic clarity of her imagery heightens the impact of these surreal juxtapositions, which she describes as "colorful explosions of alternate reality." Embraced and penetrated by swirling, lyrical passages of natural form, Czarnecki's figures radiate a tender calm. Their peculiar stillness gives them a mythic quality; they are like messengers from an mysterious, yet strangely familiar territory.

SUBJECT TAGS: [arts](#) [painting and drawing](#) [photography](#)

CONTRIBUTORS



Nova Czarnecki

Nova Czarnecki works with oil paint, creating vibrant life-sized images of figures in motion, emotional portraits, and amped-up nature. After graduating from Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design with a degree in painting, she has continued a disciplined career as an artist in Milwaukee, exhibiting her work in various galleries.

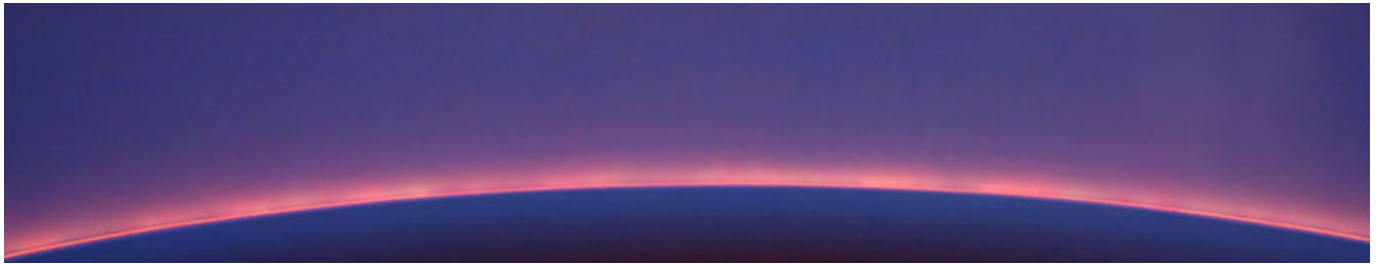


Lisa Frank

Lisa Frank holds an MFA from the Design Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she has also worked as a lecturer and director of the Design Gallery.

Learn, engage, and enjoy contemporary art by Wisconsin artists at James Watrous Gallery.





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