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STATEMENT

Anti-Pareidolia

When natural forms become larger than life, a piece of fruit can stand in for the human body, a fragment of coral becomes a fantastic landscape. In the close and precise observation of these forms, they become mysterious, perhaps menacing and seductive at once. Pareidolia refers to the way we sometimes see things that aren't really there in random phenomena: the ice cream castle in the sky, the man on the moon, or Jesus on the grilled cheese sandwich. In my current exhibition, *Anti-Pareidolia*, I examine complex structures — coral, crystals plants, formed through random natural processes, and find the hidden patterns that are there. I look at my subjects closely in order to understand how they have come to be. I invite the viewer to look beyond a literal description of familiar forms, and see what else they might discover. I hope to inspire curiosity and wonder. From 2005 - 2016 my work focused on the fibers, tissues and corpuscles of torn fruit and vegetables as a way to examine the nature of living flesh more generally, with its universal processes of seduction, destruction and regeneration. The fruit acts as a surrogate for the human body.

We know things first through touch, feeling our way through the world; many baby mammals do not even open their eyes for days after birth. Yet, the newborn human's gaze is intense. Cognitive neuroscientists suggest that the infant looks at you so directly to get inside your head, to understand your emotions and intentions, and perhaps even influence what you might do next. The capacities to observe closely and to imaginatively project ourselves into what we see develop in tandem. As we gain experience, we are always comparing current perceptions with prior knowledge, developing hypotheses and conjectures in response to an ever changing, shifting world. In my paintings, I invite the viewer to look beyond a literal description of coral or fruit, and see what else they might discover.