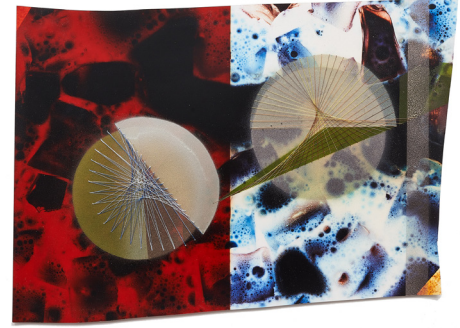


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Johnna Arnold

Energy and Form

March 3 - April 12, 2022

In her second solo exhibition at Sarah Shepard Gallery, Bay Area artist Johnna Arnold has created 13 new pieces made between New York and the Bay Area. Featuring unique photograms, mixed media photographs and unique oil resistance prints, Arnold builds upon her thinking in the series, *From Inside This Earth*, (2019, again taping into the material that drives much of our civilization - motor oil.

In *Energy and Form*, Arnold created unique C-prints by enlarging individual samples of used motor oil. In some images Arnold combined Oil with materials that speak to the interwoven web of energy around us, while in others she created forms within the images of Oil itself. To amplify the infinite interconnections between forms, Arnold weaves iridescent thread into the surface of select pieces, drawing attention to shape, texture, and line. Pointing to the interconnections highlighted through globalization, Arnold made three new pieces with crude oil mail-ordered from Azerbaijan. The Oil was transferred onto paper in a technique based on the perpetual resistance of oil and water. Re-contextualizing and acknowledging the transformational nature of Oil in our daily lives is integral to establishing a new appreciation for all the earth provides.

During the pandemic Arnold found new time for refining personal energy through the practice of yoga, meditation, and research. The relationship between her previous lifestyle and this new quieter one was a swapping of energy burned into energy fostered. The First Law of Thermodynamics states that Energy can be changed from one form to another, but it cannot be created or destroyed. Viewed in the context of our current environmental crisis, we have reached a pinnacle of greed in our relationship with energy. The extractive way we value the earth, each other, and our own bodies has reached a tipping point that we are now forced to acknowledge. The resolution of this crisis lies in a total transformation of our values, and through a growing appreciation for the interconnectedness of all energy bodies.

Johnna Arnold is an artist, photographer, educator, and urban gardener based in Oakland, CA. Her work revolves around human beings, the environments we build, and the ways these systems affect our lives. In addition to Arnold's photography practice she works in sculpture, installation, video, drawings, and social practice to strengthen the connections between communities. Johnna has exhibited at venues including the Headlands Center for the Arts, San Francisco Camerawork, the Oakland International Airport, and the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery. She is currently part of the exhibition *Creative Attention: Art and Community Restoration* at the Palo Alto Arts Center. She received her BA in Photography from Bard College in 1996, and her MFA from Mills College in 2005.

For more information contact sarah@sarahshepardgallery.com or 917-375-2720.

Caption: Johnna Arnold, *Energy and Form #2*, 2021, unique chromogenic print with mixed media, II 3/8 x 16 in.