

## always arriving Nicole Czapinski

# About the Artist

**Nicole Czapinski** is an interdisciplinary artist from Pittsburgh, PA. Her work explores illusions within perception through photo collage, scanner technology, video, sculpture, and a series of thread drawings. Since receiving a BA from Bennington College in 2006, her work has been shown nationally. Recent solo exhibitions include The Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Burlington City Arts, and the Vermont Studio Center. She is looking forward to a collaborative exhibition with Centa Schumacher opening at Associated Artists of Pittsburgh in September 2023.

Cover image: *more like air*, 2019-present, courtesy of the artist

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*always arriving* presents new work by Nicole Czapinski, whose long-term explorations of perception combine photography, collage, sculpture, and video. Working with photographs, carefully selected erasures, and layers of colored papers, Czapinski creates scanned images by intuitively moving her hand in response to the light of the flatbed scanner lamp. Each pass produces a unique result. While Czapinski's final images are flat photographic prints, their composition conveys a push and pull between 2D and 3D experience.

**Helen Trompeteler**  
Deputy Director  
of Programs,  
Silver Eye Center  
for Photography

These newly created works evoke the distortion of time that we may feel in moments of crisis or lack of control. However, Czapinski's hand in each piece asserts her agency and honors the physical gestures involved in her processes of making. Czapinski's motif invites the viewer to join her in exploring states of continuous transition.

This exhibition is part of Silver Eye's Pittsburgh Presents series, a year-round project to highlight the work of extraordinary artists and image-makers working in our community.

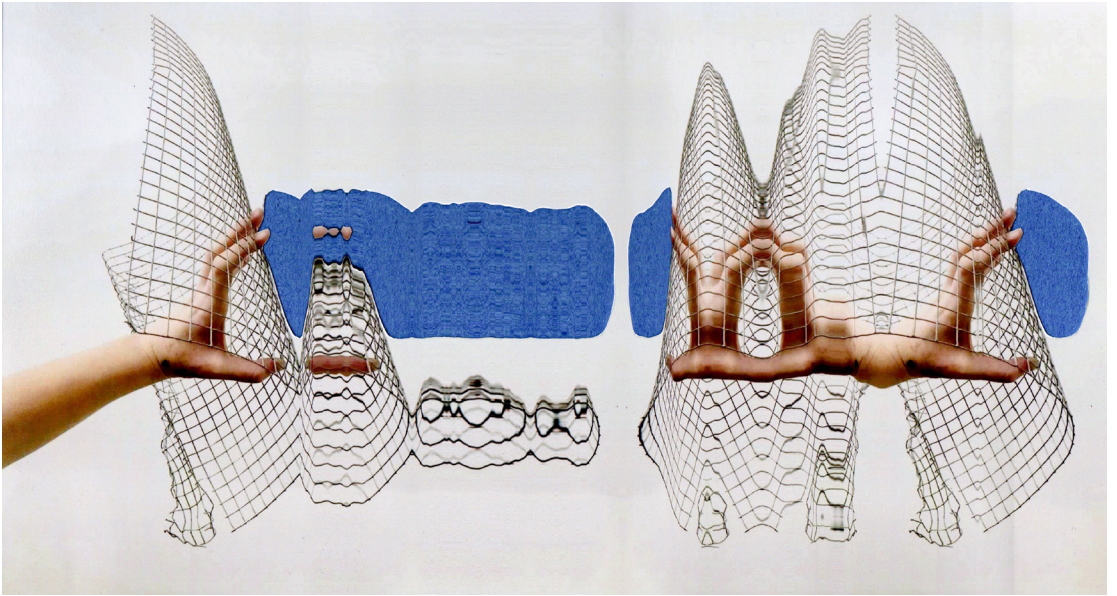
# Artist Statement

## Nicole Czapinski

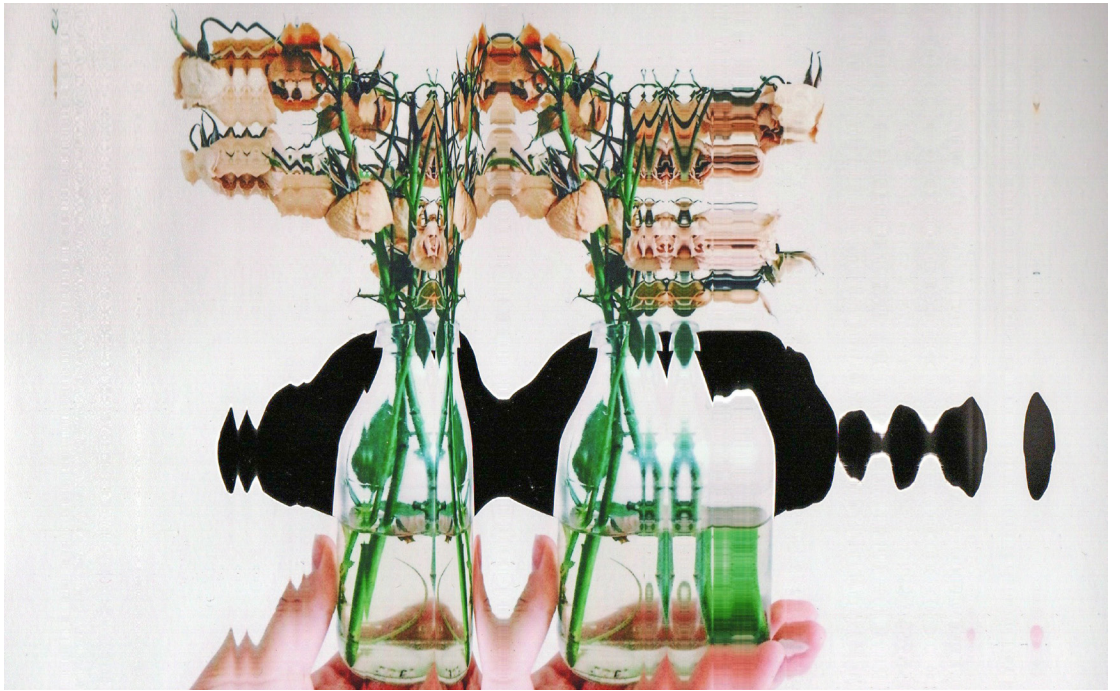
In this new series, photographic prints are treated as physical objects—artifacts from the past brought into the present and then distorted. I first experimented with this process shortly after I was in a car accident. Stopped at a stop sign, waiting to merge into traffic, a truck drove into the back of me totalling my car. Then they kept driving. I was left feeling that this moment was completely out of my control.

Working with these photos, I'm altering a moment of time by removing part of an image and scanning it to create a new warped reality. I found agency in cutting out part of the original image and in using my hand to physically move the image across the scanner bed. Paper fills in the removed areas and is seen as a cutout channeling its way through the scan revealing shadowy pockets hollowed out of the image. By dragging the print back and forth, the lamp records, rescans, and gets stuck repeating itself like a glitch or record skipping, like my hand pushing it along trying to keep up with the moving light. This process allows for infinite versions as the image can be reprinted and different parts can be removed. When the image is scanned it's unique each time depending on the rate at which I move my hand back and forth along the light. My hand in the work becomes a bridge between the act of making and the final piece, both physically by placing myself in the work and conceptually as the hand is also an invitation to the viewer.

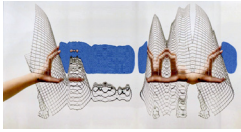
As I'm scanning the images face down I can't see what I'm doing. In all of my work, I feel my way through intuitively. Though uncomfortable at first, I eventually release into not knowing, trusting in a process, and in the textures of new materials. In using my own images a photograph becomes physical evidence of the past. In a way this process of scanning allows a memory to live on outside and beyond the confines of its captured image.



*more like air, 2019-present*  
Courtesy of the artist

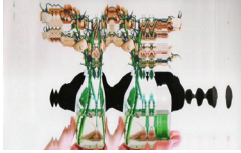


*more like water*, 2015-present  
Courtesy of the artist



Nicole Czapinski *more like air*

2019-present  
Archival pigment print  
24 x 44 inches  
Price upon request



Nicole Czapinski *more like water*

2015-present  
Archival pigment print  
24 x 38.5 inches  
Price upon request

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**Silver Eye Center for Photography  
Pittsburgh Presents  
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Silver Eye Center for Photography is generously supported by our individual donors and lab members and by the Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Concept Art Gallery, the Fine Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, the Irving and Aaronel deRoy Gruber Charitable Foundation, The Joy of Giving Something Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.