

This exhibit was organized by JD Talasek of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC and Deborah Klochko of the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego

Butterflies, beetles, dragonflies and other colorful insects take center stage in this collection of Jo Whaley's photographs. Inspired by natural history dioramas of an earlier era of scientific display, Whaley stages her photographs to emphasize the wonder and gemlike exquisiteness of these creatures through color, texture, and lighting. These simple but captivating portraits encourage the viewer to consider the connections between nature and artifice, science and art.

The photographs show insects in altered habitats that reflect a compromised natural environment. Entomology specimens are juxtaposed with backgrounds which are composed of cast-off materials from urban production, which have partially been reclaimed by nature; such as metal that is rusted, paper that is foxed by microorganisms and plastic pitted by the sea. The result is a world of nature, intermixed with the man in manufacture, and the melancholy beauty of entropy.



PUBLICATION

The Theater of Insects

Photographs by Jo Whaley

Essays by Linda Wiener and

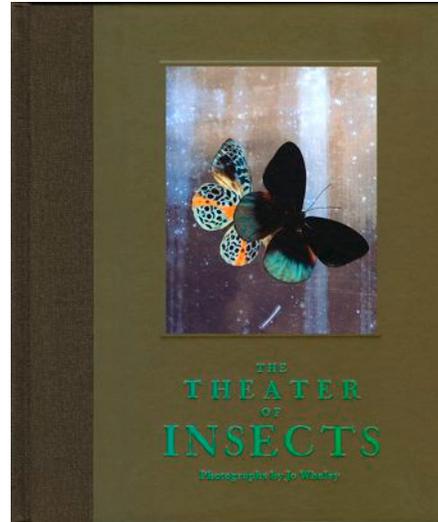
Deborah Klochko and Jo Whaley



CHRONICLE BOOKS

Hard Cover | 128 pages

64 color images



EXHIBITION DETAILS



Space requirements

Approximately 145-175 linear feet

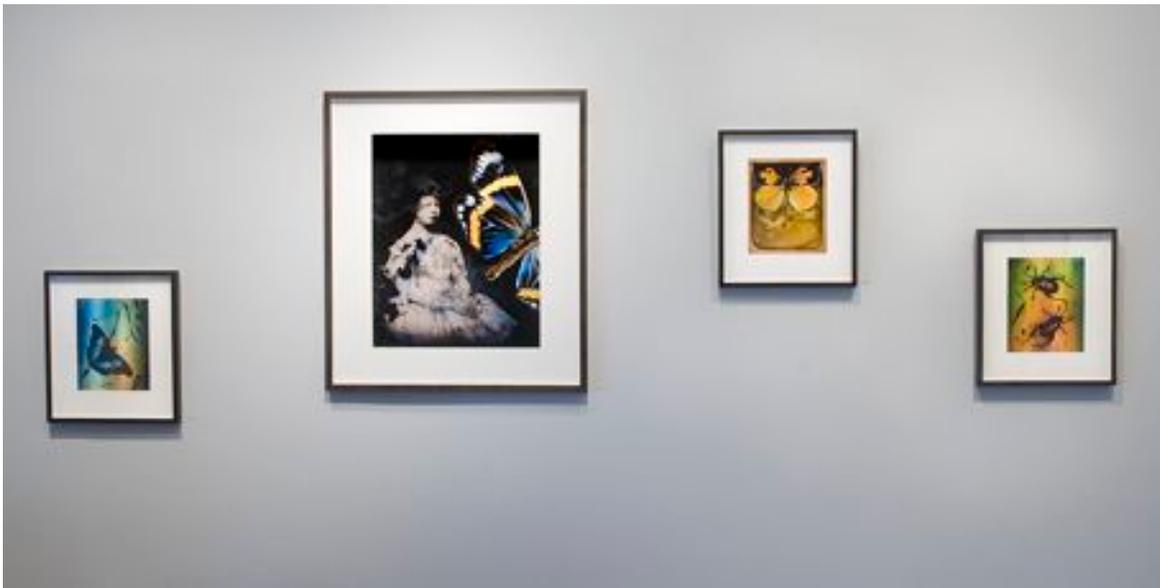
Number of works

45-50 Photographs

For images, refer to

www.jowhaley.com

This exhibition can be altered to meet a curatorial stance and the institutions space requirements.



SIZES

- (20) 16 x 14 frame size, 10x8 image size
- (16) 31 x 27 frame size, 18.5x22.5 image size
- (7) 42 x 34 frame size, 24x30 image size

The larger pieces are installed on a mid line and the smaller pieces are installed at various heights to mimic insects flying and alighting on the walls in the room

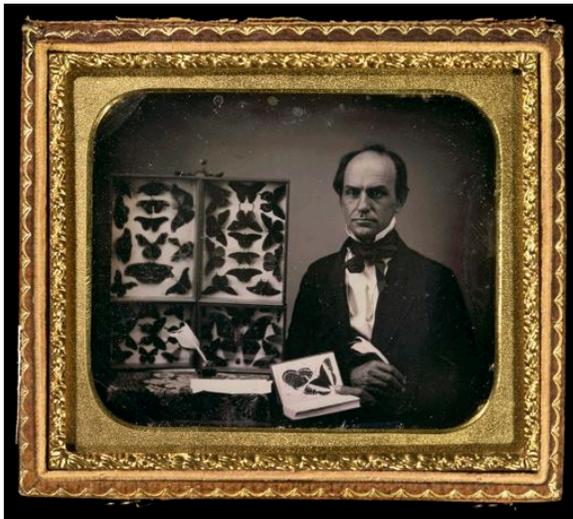
INSECT CASES



Up to 4 cases 18"x 20"x 2.5" each
Can be walled mounted or presented
horizontal in a vitrine

An optional component of the this exhibit is the use of glassed specimen cases either on loan from the artist's own collection or borrowed from a local collector or institution.

ILLUSTRATED TEXT PANELS



The Butterfly Collector, anonymous, Daguerreotype, 1850



Insect Wings, W.H.F. Talbot 1839-41

Drawing from the essays in the book, the introductory text panel for the exhibit by Deborah Klochko places the images in a historical context of scientific illustration. The illustrated text that accompanies the insect cases by entomologist Linda Wiener relates the photographs to a philosophy of aesthetics in entomology. In the concluding text panel, by Jo Whaley, the photographs are discussed as metaphors for contemporary environmental issues.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Lectures with visual presentation can be scheduled with Jo Whaley and/or Linda Wiener. A designed brochure with essay and photos is available, with the printing costs to be covered by the institution.

AUDIENCE APPEAL

Appropriate to both adults and children, this exhibit will provoke the curiosity of those interested in natural history, science and art.

SECURITY

Low to Medium (All photographs are replaceable at cost)

PROJECT CONSULTANTS:

Linda Wiener

Entomologist, PhD

Former Curatorial Associate, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard

Role: Entomology Text panels, essay for book, insect I.D, consultant

505-984-2371

Deborah Klochko

Director of the Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, CA

Role: Text Panel, essay for the book

CONTACT

Jo Whaley

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THE WASHINGTON POST

Our Picks CANT MISS

1 THE THEATER OF INSECTS

[EXHIBIT] Beetles, butterflies, dragonflies and six-legged critters are the stars of Jo Whaley's photographs. By juxtaposing them against found objects and such materials as glass, paint and metal, the artist highlights the vibrant colors and sometimes machinelike qualities of the insects while raising questions about the intersections of the natural world with manufactured environments.



Opens Monday. Through Dec. 10. National Academy of Sciences, Keck Center, 500 Fifth St. NW. 202-334-2436. FREE

🐞 The Theater of Insects includes Jo Whaley's "Papilio Ulysses." Opens Monday (See Can't Miss.)

MUSEUM



Fear Itself
The First Great Depression

Coming Soon . . .
The Future

Drinking It Up
Outreach at the Pub