

THOUGHTS ON COTYLEDON (2022) by Paul Fitzpatrick



Cotyledon Projects' bold and decisively executed inaugural exhibition: *Cotyledon*, HP Denham's curatorial debut is a must-see group show featuring contributions from established, internationally exhibited artists, shown beside compelling work from up and coming new talent. Expect virtuosic oil paintings next to microbiological ecosystems both digital and organic. Denham's conceptual impetus concerning natural emergence and entropy threads the breadth of media she has selected. In their own ways, each work prompts us to consider how we understand living matter through various methodologies of representation and reproduction.

Susan Kleinberg's contribution, *Helix* (2019), is a definite highlight. *Helix* is a chromogenic print, made in collaboration with the Louvre's scientific team and was shown at the Venice Biennale in 2019. We see an unspecified organism seemingly encased in amber like a souvenir scorpion and then we sense movement as the forms begin to verge on abstraction. Is this a representation of reality or is this *actually* reality? Can anything truly be preserved or captured, or it's essence transformed with our engagement. Should we be looking *through* these works like we would a Vermeer, or do we look *at* them like we would a Pollock? Our perception of matter, of light, and of energy is inevitably through the mechanics and processes of representation. The devices we employ in attempt to represent what we perceive, however subtlety or drastically, alter the nature of that which we seek to preserve. Is it all futile? Of course not!

One of the exhibition's many strengths is that each piece could lead you down all kinds of contemplative rabbit holes or you can simply enjoy the beauty of the compositions, and the ingenuity, and tact with which they are rendered. These artists work with a palpable conviction. With *Cotyledon*, Denham has proven herself a capable leader and an ambitious new voice in LA art who will explore nuanced, serious topics without it feeling all too serious. Viewings are available by appointment now until June 11. Contact HP at [hellohpdenham@gmail.com](mailto:hellohpdenham@gmail.com) to book your viewing.