

BRUCE CHECEFSKY

Statement

To create the images in this new series, I customized an optical scanner by stripping the device to its bare essentials and replacing the cathode fluorescent lamp with a more powerful bulb. The resulting lushly colored images make one think of 17th Century Dutch painting and camera obscura effects in the work of Vermeer.

I effectively “scan” my garden, repurposing the scanner as a camera. I carried the flatbed scanner outside—mounted on a tripod, plugged into a laptop and powered by a lengthy extension cord. I used it as an improvised field camera, opening the modified scanner toward its surroundings to register close-up images of the garden landscape. These images might initially appear to be traditional botanical scenes, until one notices the occasional scanning glitch—a miniscule patch of neon color, a peculiar blur which hints at its origins.

Similar to my experimental films, the horizontal exposure of the scanner suggests the pan of a film or video camera as it captures its surroundings from a continuously shifting vantage point. While the “photo-scanning” process involves no true depth of field, the images that it yields possess both extreme flatness and great depth.

BRUCE CHECEFSKY received a Master of Fine Arts in Photography from Cranbrook Academy of Art. He also studied at the International Center of Photography in New York City.

In 2009, Checefsky was awarded a Creative Workforce Fellowship from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture. He is also the recipient of a Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Fellowship. In 2007, he received an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Excellence Award.

A four-time recipient of CEC Artslink International Fellowships to: Center for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Poland; The Baltic Center of Photography, St. Petersburg, Russia; Institute of Contemporary Art, Sofia, Bulgaria; and Hungarian Union of Photographers, Budapest, Hungary.

In 2005, Checefsky was artist-in-residence at the Center for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, where he directed a film written by Polish experimental filmmaker Andrzej Pawlowski in 1954.

Bruce Checefsky’s works are in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan; The Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Cleveland Museum of Art; among others.

All works in the exhibition are: chromogenic digital scanner prints, 2009, 18 x 24 inches, edition: 3 + 1AP