



July 18 – July 27, 2014
Stark Gallery
College Station, TX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Explosive Vaporization, Jupiter Series

CASSANDRA HANKS: ALIEN LANDSCAPES

Merging Science and Art through Photography of Planets in Our Solar System

Award winning artist Cassandra Hanks is pleased to present Alien Landscapes, her MFA thesis exhibition for the Department of Visualization at Texas A&M. The opening reception will be July 18th at 4pm followed by an artist talk at 5pm at the Stark Gallery at Texas A&M in the Memorial Student Center. The exhibit will be up until July 27th.

Alien Landscapes is a photographic series of fabricated planetary environments which create prophetic possibilities of other extraterrestrial realities. The terrain of our neighboring planets serves as a hypothetical landscape for what Earth used to be, could have been, or might become. For most planets, there is limited photographic evidence of its surface appearance.

Based on data gathered from rovers, satellites, telescopes, and scientists, Cassandra Hanks recreates these landscapes through constructed photography. She uses organic materials to fabricate miniature designs of planetary terrains in our solar system. For instance, her interpretation of Jupiter involves using condensed milk, dyes, and LEDs to simulate geysers of light that would occur as a reaction between solid metallic hydrogen and liquid metallic hydrogen.

She also borrows special effect techniques used in filmmaking, such as creating salt and freshwater density layers in water tanks and craft a cloud with condensed milk. For non-



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gaseous planets such as Venus, she constructs miniature models of the surface using materials like 2 pounds of paprika. The results give the final visualization a unique and realistic aesthetic that can easily be interpreted as an authentic record of a landscape that hypothetically exists. Viewers are presented with fictional possibilities, based on actual scientific data, of places we know exist but have not yet seen.

ARTIST SUMMARY

Texas born native Cassandra Hanks is currently a graduate student working on her MFA in Visualization at Texas A&M. Her photography has been shown at the New York Hall of Science in Queens, NY and The Lunar and Planetary Laboratory in Tuscan, Arizona. It is also currently on display at the HEREarts Center in Manhattan, NY and will soon be shown at the Fresh Arts Gallery in Houston, TX. Her photography has been featured in numerous publications and reviews including Peripheral ARTeries, SciArt in America and the New York Times. Currently, her works are part of the collection at the University of Arizona. In her free time she enjoys freelance photography, video editing, scuba diving and being an avid animal lover. More of her work can be viewed at www.cassandrahanks.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Stark Gallery
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Gallery Hours
Tues - Fri: 9am - 8pm
Sat - Sun: 12pm - 6pm
www.uart.tamu.edu/stark