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For the past ten years I have been photographing in and around the Powder River Basin in north central Wyoming (see Cartography and the Cultural Terrain), a stunning landscape where energy exploration is expanding exponentially. Wyoming is “ground zero” for oil, gas and coal exploration. Mining, drilling, hydraulic fracturing and transportation of energy resources takes a huge toll on the natural environment, destroying habitat for a great number of species (from sage grouse to pronghorn, trout to humans), leaving unsightly scars and detritus while contaminating ground water reserves.



Figure 1: *Riveting Itself to the Presumed*, archival pigment photograph, 2013/2018.

But currently, we are a society dependent upon fossil fuels. If our western habitats are to survive massive industrial development of energy resources, warming temperatures, pollution, and livestock grazing then we must begin to embrace our responsibilities. This lack of recognition that we are a part of nature, not separate from it is a core problem to our understanding the sustainability of our

practices and the repercussions of our actions on these life forms and processes. It seems imperative that we begin to recognize our roles in the solutions as well as in the problems.

In this new body of photographs I attempt to explore the intersection of art, science and nature, chaos and climate, while trying to understand the tenuous equilibrium that these core elements play within the ecosystem, for reclamation and restoration of a planet in peril. This selection of photographs focus on a visual investigation of these elements within life's soup amidst the arid landscapes west of the 100th meridian contrasted alongside images of natural reclamation.

I was awarded an opportunity to be artist in residence at Biosphere 2. My time there allowed me to shift my focus from one of concern, anger and despair about our changing environment to that of hope and possibility. My own visual research led me to scrape the surface of understanding the interconnectedness and complexity of life's biological processes. B2 is a place where attention to biological processes is the order of the day and where one sees evidence of scientists, students and artists turning concern into knowledge, and knowledge into solutions for change.

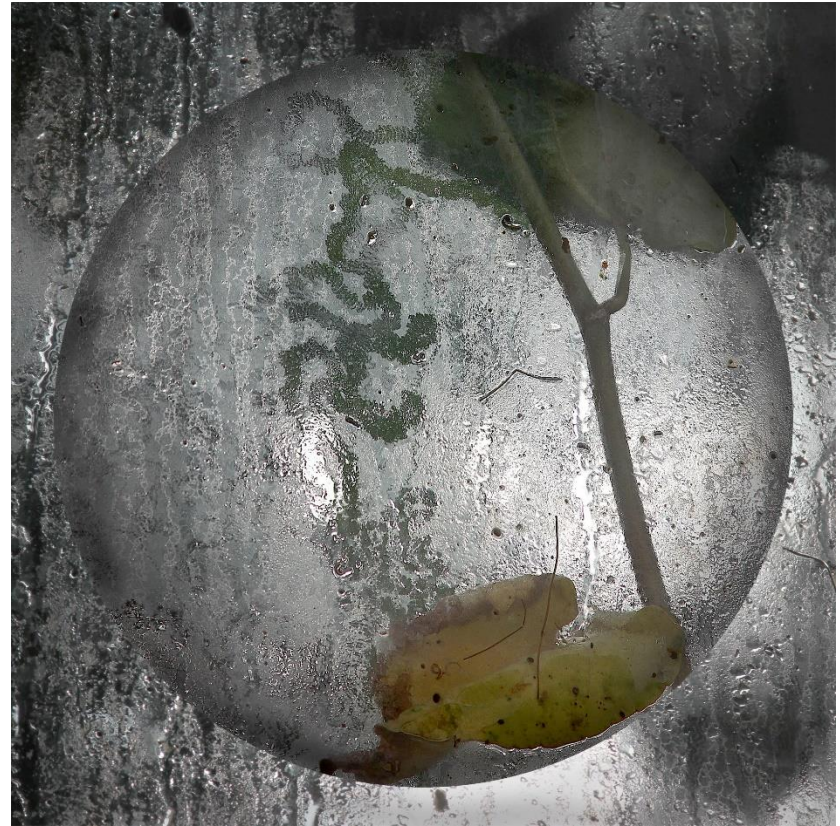


Figure 2: *Reality of Its Presence*, archival pigment photograph, 2013/2018.



Figure 3: *Moments of Detached Reflection*, archival pigment photograph, 2013/2018.