

Fruma Markowitz Photography



Scanograms: Sunflower; Archival digital photograph on canvas; 24" h X 24" w
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Scanograms Artist Statement

Several years ago I began laying objects on the glass of my digital scanner and discovered a whole new world of imagery that also satisfied a need to physically “touch” my photographs. My scanned images are self-contained worlds where only the objects I’ve hand-picked exist suspended in time and space. I do not manipulate them in the computer except to clean up dust spots.

The glass of the scanner is limited in size and forms a fixed frame for the images. These edges force me to see and compose within a strictly defined space and point of view, and using objects of a specific size and scale. This is a very different experience from using a camera, where I always take away a piece of the external world, where chunks of the view are either cut off or cut out of the frame, and where I have the ability to manipulate the angle of view or perspective by moving my body or changing a lens. The scanner emits a single, evenly distributed full-frontal blast of light, a configuration that was conceived for translating flat paper documents into flat digital documents. The vegetables, fruit, and flowers I place on the scanner take on an ethereal 3-D existence, fully lit and well-defined on the front surface, a bit obscured along the sides with only a slight suggestion of contour and volume, fading quickly to black at the edges.

My intention in working with this series is to challenge myself beyond what the technology is meant to accomplish in practical terms, towards a new definition of the language and imagery of photography, without ever clicking a camera shutter.