

SOPHIE ALEXANDER, ARTIST STATEMENT, 'IN MEDIUM'

Alexander is testing the limits of what the camera is capable of capturing. What do the light patterns make us believe when we see a face in two places at once? It is, after all, a reflection of our own universe. Yet, the world that is captured follows different rules than we follow in our waking lives; it is the paradox of dreams – or perhaps of realities within realities. The artist often probes the inadequacies of scientific explanation, and the strange behaviors of very small and very large systems – the infinite stream of inquiry into the physical universe which never really seems to get anywhere, just go smaller or larger once again, push on into the infinity of time and space and inquiry...her work pursues this recursive inquiry into the physical universe, which repeats itself as the scale changes within an infinite perspective.

What impression of the conscious protagonist, she who is central to each image, does Alexander's work evoke? She is ephemeral; she is shy and does not reveal her identity. She is universal, everyone at once. She can escape detection. The material she is made of is thin, and often transparent. She can be in two places at once, or more. She can appear completely solid. She is full of both grace and beauty, but also strangeness and alienness; she is both familiar and foreign. At times, she deceives us and we cannot determine her shape. She is separate from the material around her. She commands our attention, and we wonder about her. She can always disappear. She is both light and dark and everything in between. She is putting on a performance for us. She is measuring herself.