

TRACTION ART

TRACTION is a place where student artists at UC Berkeley can share our work, our thoughts, and our interests. Get some TRACTION.

Build momentum.

SUBMIT HERE

EXPLORE TAGS

STUDENT WORK

EXHIBITIONS

PREVIEWS

REVIEWS

COLLAGE

DRAWING

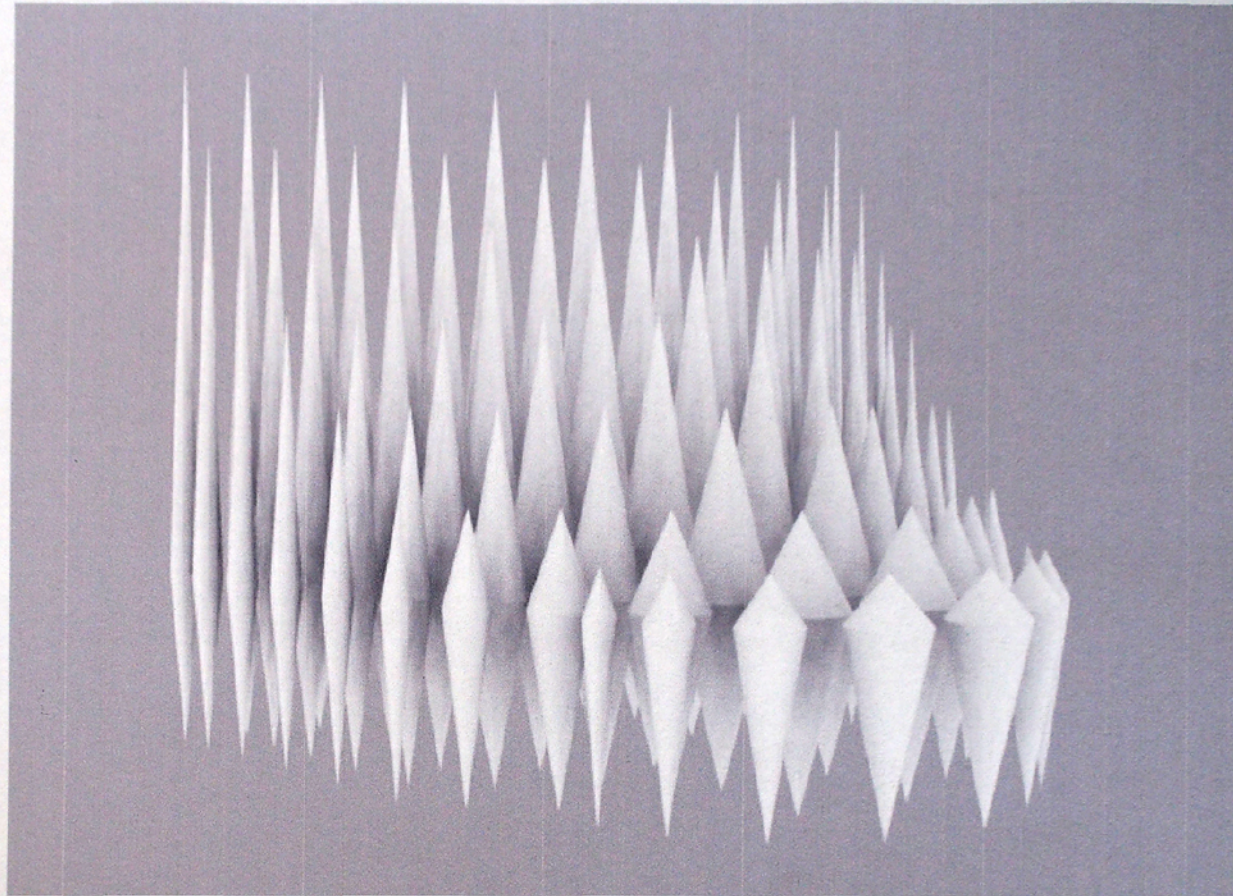
PAINTING

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRINTMAKING

SCULPTURE

VIDEO



PAREIDOLIA: New Works by Donald Fortescue
Ongoing until February 22, 2014

There is no denying that Donald Fortescue's multi-media, solo exhibition, "PAREIDOLIA" at Vessel Art Gallery, in downtown Oakland, is the show to see before it closes on February 22nd. Fortescue's work includes an array of mediums from large digital prints, sound components, wood sculpture, video and other mixed media. The work is based on his observations and findings from the last 3 years of residencies in Iceland, Australia, Colorado, Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia and Marin County, California. His history as a furniture designer, scientist and art professor are evident in the aesthetic depiction of his investigations of nature in those regions. Pareidolia is a term that describes a phenomenon of human perception, where humans can perceive or identify a recognizable or iconic image in an otherwise banal object or substance. At the entrance and first floor of Vessel Gallery, the show displays large scale, close up digital images of what appear to be rocklike forms that are broken down into patterns of organic shaped pixels. The images could be rocks, or potatoes or whatever you interpret them to be.

PAREIDOLIA: New Works by Donald Fortescue

Ongoing until February 22, 2014

There is no denying that Donald Fortescue's multi-media, solo exhibition, "PAREIDOLIA" at Vessel Art Gallery, in downtown Oakland, is the show to see before it closes on February 22nd.

Fortescue's work includes an array of mediums from large digital prints, sound components, wood sculpture, video and other mixed media. The work is based on his observations and findings from the last 3 years of residencies in Iceland, Australia, Colorado, Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia and Marin County, California. His history as a furniture designer, scientist and art professor are evident in the aesthetic depiction of his investigations of nature in those regions. Pareidolia is a term that describes a phenomenon of human perception, where humans can perceive or identify a recognizable or iconic image in an otherwise banal object or substance. At the entrance and first floor of Vessel Gallery, the show displays large scale, close up digital images of what appear to be rocklike forms that are broken down into patterns of organic shaped pixels. The images could be rocks, or potatoes or whatever you interpret them to be, depending on your perception or how long you observe them. Across the room are mixed media: 3-dimensional works with whittled wood pieces, cast molds, and interactive sound devices. The initial experience immediately captures your visual, hearing and tactile senses, which lends to an experience of being in nature. I did not see any iconic images or recognizable forms hidden in the work initially but I did feel like I was experiencing something more than just the artwork itself.

The exhibit continues on the second floor of the gallery, which once again lent to the dimensionality and conceptual grandness of the work. Upstairs displayed more large digital prints, some black and white others with grays, blues, whites and hints of golden brown. Another wall held more mixed media sculptural wall pieces with video and sound, which echoed through the room and led to the most spectacular moving wood sculpture. The wood sculpture titled, "On The Level" is a 68-piece sculpture made from hand-coopered spindles of recycled old growth redwood. The spindles varied in size and hung from the ceiling producing a flowing asymmetrical form. The sound from the other pieces, coupled with the movement and visual flow of the form was calming and reminiscent of the movement of water or a light wind. From a distance, the placement of the spindles of the sculpture reminded me of an old church pipe organ, a moment of pareidolia for sure. Fortescue's investigations of nature become apparent to the beholder through his aesthetic display of work through his multimedia forms. Donald Fortescue's, 'PAREIDOLIA' solo show is a must see at Vessel Gallery, Oakland, so stop in by Saturday February 22nd.

Vessel Gallery
471 25th st.
Oakland, CA