

YOU WILL NEVER BE LOVELIER
Marinta Skupin

July 15-August 26, 2023
Art Produce Gallery

1. *The Golden Hour*

2022

India ink on paper with laser cutting

The data used in this piece consists of records of ocean temperatures at La Jolla, as measured every day in 2021. The data is provided by the Shore Stations Program sponsored at Scripps Institution of Oceanography by California Department of Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Division, Award# C1670003.

2. *I Asked AI (1-6)*

2023

Engraving on paper

These statements are from responses generated by ChatGPT, in response to the question "What will we miss in the event of a climate apocalypse?"

3. *My hart is 'n toring (My heart is a tower)*

2023

Gesso and graphite on paper

The imagery in this piece is inspired by photos taken by the Hubble Space Telescope and the writing is of an Afrikaans love poem by the celebrated South African poet Breyten Breytenbach.

4. *Hold the Star*

2022

Laser-cut film over India ink on paper

We must hold the dark
We must hold the mud
We must hold the fear
We must hold the star

ant, simple. (2020). fugitive ecologies: Finding freedom in the wilderness. Root Work Journal, 90–97.

Prices upon request

Artist Statement

My work probes our relationship with the natural environment. Through imagery, scientific data, and language I explore multiple ways of knowing and of expressing the world.

In addition to being inspired by physical features of the natural world, my work is informed by reflections on the history of landscape painting and on issues such as extinction and the predicted climate apocalypse.

The title of the exhibition is a quote from the following passage, written by David Benioff and spoken by Brad Pitt's character in the 2004 film *Troy*: "Everything is more beautiful because we're doomed. You will never be lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again."

I have been intrigued by the role of Afrikaans, my mother tongue, in the shaping of my consciousness. Contemplating the theme of loss, I consider how the loss of one's language could extend to the loss of the world.

Artist Bio

Marinta Skupin (b. Williston, South Africa) is a Prebys-endowed scholar and MFA candidate at San Diego State University's School of Art and Design. She has a BA degree in Fine Arts and an MA degree in Arts Administration, both from the University of New Orleans. Prior to returning to the studio full-time, she had a long museum career, most recently as Curator of Education at Laguna Art Museum.

Her work has been exhibited at such venues as the Athenaeum in La Jolla, the Institute of Contemporary Art in San Diego, Gallery 825 in Los Angeles, and the Abercrombie Gallery at McNeese State University in Louisiana.

Contact

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