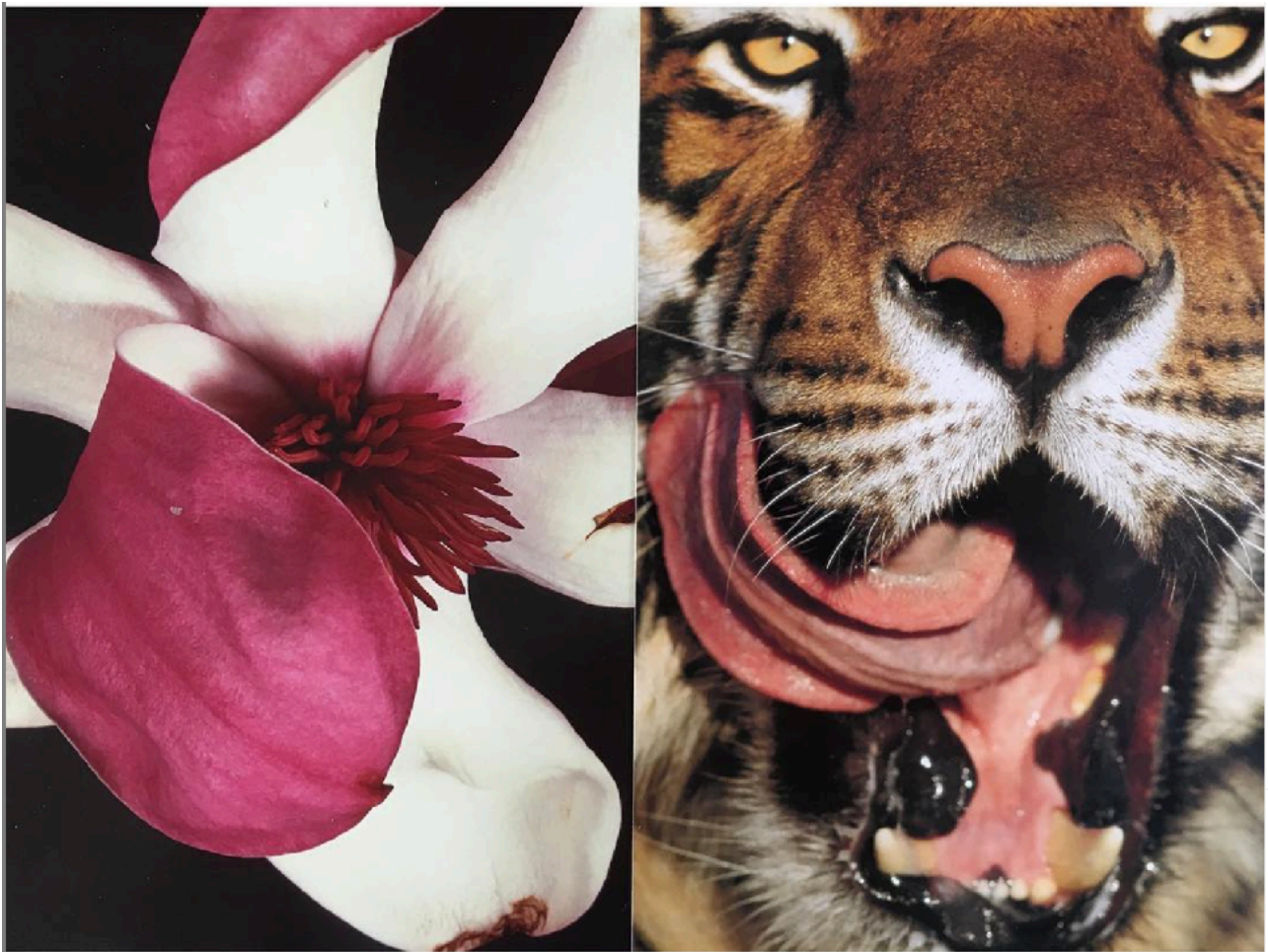


NICKY HIRST

ELEMENTAL WORKS

20.04.18 – 26.05.18

Did you know that mushrooms bioaccumulate? That basically means they absorb all the chemicals from the soil they grow in. So if the soil is infested with chemical pesticides and other unnatural substances for the acceleration of their growth by irresponsible farmers, the mushrooms will absorb all of that and thus become a power house of harmful substances. Avocados for example are the exact opposite, they don't absorb much. So you can eat all the non organic avocados you want and no harm will be done to you body. Mushrooms are the one thing you shouldn't risk. It's dangerous, just buy organic. (Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a substance at a rate faster than that at which the substance is lost by catabolism and excretion) They bio accumulate. Remember that word. I just learnt it. Could it be, that in order for our minds to form ideas that shake the existing architecture of our thought patterns and/or behaviours and influence the way we live, the way we make decisions, the things we say, the efficiency of our existence and the rate of our cognitive evolution, we must first fine tune our perception enough to prime it for the accumulation of a narrow, hyper concentrated stream of imagery and reasoning that slowly builds momentum up to form solidified angles of opinion? Then we must be agile enough to shift to a completely paradoxical view point, and again allow the natural tendency of our accumulative mind to gather data in another dimension of perceived reality. Only then will we be able to magnetically and effortlessly join two opposites that complement each other enough to form a whole. Is that how babies are born? Our minds are like mushrooms.



Elemental Works, is a collection of found and paired images by Nicky Hirst displayed at domobaal gallery on John Street. Sometimes placing things together, finding pairs, creating one thing, out of two things blurring

the line that separates opinions, or separating opinions by combining opinions, joining forces to cultivate strength, to eliminate isolated power, to birth a life of limitless possibility to resign control, to trust, to be guided instead of being the one that guides, to watch, and observe, to allow things to happen, to nurture the happenings instead of asking for happenings, to simply follow and not lead, is the only thing that really matters. Actually, it is always the only thing that really matters. The act of bringing two things together to be presented side by side is a strange phenomenon. They might compliment each other, create conflict between with each other, or simply co-exist silently. It's another thing entirely to search something, in order to place it next to something.



I arrived 40 minutes late to the gallery. My peers were standing outside waiting for me, and when I arrived the conversation started to build momentum around the weather, and also how boring the exhibition was. They didn't like it. It was described as bland. I listened to their judgments but still, I was eager to see for myself. I told them to look after my bike, they continued to converse about more interesting topics of discussion and I went to have a look for myself. It was a 300 year old Georgian house. There was a doorbell. Even so, when I rang the door bell I was pushing the door waiting for a buzzer to release the latch but it was opened after some delay by a gentleman named Theo. Short for Theodore. I felt like I was being welcomed into a home, I told him my friends didn't like the exhibition and that we had to do a project for university about it. It's all a bit forced and maybe that what caused so much friction on their end. I felt slightly rushed. Like I was only supposed to get a feel for the work, a glance, very quickly, and then leave. I felt overwhelmed by an archive of images, there were so many I couldn't give my attention to all of them, so I skimmed, taking pictures of only those that I was instantly drawn to. The images were arranged on the wall very neatly in 3 rows with equal space apart spread across the mid length of the 4 walls of the empty, creaking, hardwood floored, Georgian house. My eyes met the images effortlessly and

skimmed through them like a real life version of my iPhone camera roll. My initial thought was that it reminded me of an IQ test. Shapes are arranged in certain patterns and your job is to find out what logic or reasoning there is behind the arrangement so that you can find the missing link. Looking at these images, made me curious, not as to the intention of the artist in placing them together, but rather the stream of consciousness that caused them to become connected, what drew her towards choosing the face of a tiger to be placed next to a flower. Wait that flower kind of looks like a tongue. Wait I get it, that's funny. That lady is watering her plants from what looks like her balcony of her apartment building. Those cups are designed to hold water. That shelf looks like an apartment building. But hold on the shadows of that image look strange, I think its two separate pictures. I found the crease it is two separate pictures. Oh wow, she found the same picture twice and stacked them on top of each other to look like a tower, thats cool. But is that what she was thinking? It could be as simple as that but it could also have more depth, there might have been a million different things she could have placed besides that picture. She could have placed a whole picture. But she didn't. She was feeling really creative that day. When she found the tiger pair I think she was feeling humorous. My mind is making these connections now, seeing the end product but I cant imagine what the journey would look like, sitting in front of countless magazine pages and just flicking and flicking not knowing really what you're looking for but still not losing hope. The faith she must have had in discovering an image that struck a chord in her, the trust she must have had in letting her intuition guide her to find the pair, to connect with the other, to discover things, to not think about the original context of the image. To not think about the original intent, but to create a new intention, to use that intention, or to discover that intention, through discovering the counter part. It's all so overwhelmingly genius. I don't understand why my friends didn't like it. Of course I understand it can all seem like an endless archive, with no particular meaning or craft involved. It could even be framed as plagiarism, not producing your own work but stealing other peoples, and claiming it as your own. So much sweat has gone into taking every single one of those images. So many people slaving away for one shot, for the printing of all those publications, and Nicky Hirst just decides to rip a page out, place it next to another page and call it art!? insanity. I understand. It's insane. But it's also genius. Only a genius would go to such lengths to make use of her cognitive capacity, of course she could have channeled it into something more 'original'. She could have taken her own pictures, but why bother when all these other people have already done it for you, when there is a library of resources at the ready? When the idea is not your main objective to execute, then you simply want to chose, and sort and arrange and flick though and skim and orchestrate. To arrange and orchestrate is a significant job, that is often overlooked and underrated. Nothing is original. We are only rearranging. Nicky is just surfacing the truth, she's cutting out all the micro math and showing us that one plus one is two. "I would say her attempt is to work with the most open mind she can", says Domo Baal.

Bibliography:

"I would say her attempt is to work with the most open mind she can" - Domo Baal (recorded interview with me on 10/05/18)

Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a substance at a rate faster than that at which the substance is lost by catabolism and excretion:

> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioaccumulation>

Elemental Works:

> <https://www.domobaal.com/exhibitions/102-18-nicky-hirst-elemental-works-01.html>

Nicky Hirst

> <https://www.nickyhirst.co.uk>

SARA SAADAT, LONDON, 2018