

Mary Bates Neubauer

Short Biography

Mary Bates Neubauer (BFA- Sculpture Colorado State University, MFA- Sculpture Indiana University Bloomington)

Bates Neubauer is represented by Bentley Gallery and Projects in Scottsdale/Phoenix, the William Havu Gallery in Denver, and the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art. She was the recipient of a Ford Fellowship while at Indiana University and later won a Fulbright Fellowship for study in Cambridge, England. She has been a guest artist at the John Michael Kohler Center Arts/Industry Program, Oxbow, the University of Minnesota, San Jose State University, Edinburgh School of Art, Scotland, and many other institutions. She has served in residencies at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop and the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Aspen, Colorado. This summer, she was an artist in residence at the American Academy in Rome. Mary Neubauer exhibits her sculpture and digital prints nationally and internationally and has completed a number of public commissions in the western states. Her work can be found in private and public collections throughout. Mary is a professor in the Sculpture department at Arizona State University, where she runs the foundry program. She is also affiliated with ASU's Partnership for Research in Spatial Modeling.

Statement on work

I am enchanted by natural history. I examine the ways in which we value, collect, and imagine flora and fauna and what effect this has upon our understanding of the world. Over the years I have created many images that are studies of implements, artifacts, and specimens. I have always enjoyed exploring how the meanings and implications of natural forms seem to change when the same objects are interpreted in a range of scales and mediums.

The cast bronze sculptures that you see in this exhibition are derived from small models of plant and animal specimens, which, even at their original tiny scale, possess a strong formal individuality. At a more monumental size, the small natural entities acquire a unique sculptural presence. The digital prints are three dimensional renderings of numerical data streams. They are a visual description of the many phenomena that make up the long cycles and rhythms of our natural world and our surroundings.

Although this work honors the modernist sensibility in its singularity and self containment, its origins are deeply based on my artist's understanding of nature. The texture and luminosity of these prints and sculptures reveal a sense of inner life. The colors and patinas are bright and painterly, further lending an expressive overlay to the surfaces and alluding to their inherent spirituality, tactile beauty, and liveliness.