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Aline Mare: Organic Integration

By Genie Davis

Mare's mixed media work joins together images that cross the boundary between photography and painting. The works from the artist's "Cryst-aline Series" offer an intricate imagining of growth and creation through the natural beauty of crystals. The works on display from her "Cloud Seeds" series centers around similar growth, but through plant life. "All these works have material in them from one tree, the kapok tree which has huge seed pods. Roots, seeds, pods, it's all here in these works," she says.

In both series, Mare's metaphor of transformation remains, an origin song, the genesis of creation. Mare's works, as mysterious as the processes to shape them examines the building blocks of nature, the elements that make up existence, and link human beings to plants, to cities, or perhaps to other universes.

While her foreground is detailed and precise, her backgrounds are sweeping and swirling, utilizing digital scanning to shape a version of a photographic process that Mare admires, cliché verde. The backgrounds form a leaping-off point that leads viewers outward from an artistic "big bang." Birth, death, life: each of Mare's works touch on one or all of these, contemplative studies that are illusive and magical. Her works are lyrical, haunting, and delicate – yet firmly rooted in the reality of rock and tree.

This is transcendent work that speaks to nature's regeneration, the cycle of life and death and the eternal incandescent flame that is spirit, simmering deep beneath the surface of the earth or within the heart of creation; depicting natural environments in deeply mystical terms.