

Artist Statement

Bacteriograms

“Appearances also cohere within the mind as perceptions. The sight of any single thing or event entrains the sight of other single things and events.”

-John Berger

As the name *Bacteriograms* implies, this series is closer to photograms than photographs. These images are made without a camera, by cultivating bacteria on the gelatin surface of the negatives, using a similar process as the one used in laboratories to grow bacteria on agar in petri dishes. With this work I want to raise questions about representation and reality; the nature and the place of photographic medium in contemporary society.

I have gathered the bacteria samples from my own body. The bacteria consumed the film surface producing photographic images that are entirely created by a chance. I have been removed from the process but, at the same time, the images are a product of my body; self-portraits.

I see Rorschach inkblot test with black ink on a white paper as the closest reference to *Bacteriograms*. Only individual's perception and psyche dictates the representation of the image and therefore is supposed to reveal something from the viewer's subconscious. *Bacteriograms* play with the way we perceive and read into photographs by offering the viewer a photographic blot to project their representation.

Bacteriograms are not even showing the bacteria that created them; they merely show the traces of bacterial activity. These images are just a piece of degraded and therefore deconstructed film, which reveals us the components that create the illusion we perceive as a reflection of the reality in the photographic image.

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