

# 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 gelatine 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 consume the film surface producing photographic images that are entirely created by a chance. I am removed from the process but still, at the same time, the images are a product of my body; self-portraits.

The closest reference to *Bacteriograms* is a Rorschach inkblot test with black ink on a white paper. Only individual's perception and psyche dictate 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 are merely showing 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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