

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Christine Nguyen

Lightness Within the Cosmic Universe

February 13, 2021 – March 20, 2021

Socially Distanced Opening Reception: Saturday, February 13, 2021, from 12 - 5pm

***No appointment necessary, facemask required for entry, maximum 10 people admitted at a time

Artist in attendance / Free and open to the public

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to welcome Long Beach, CA and Denver, CO-based artist Christine Nguyen for her introductory solo exhibition with the gallery, *Lightness Within the Cosmic Universe*.

Featuring photo-based collage and photo-process paintings, artist Christine Nguyen ruminates on the connection between nature and the individual. Nguyen's multivalent practice is deeply informed by the natural world, and the micro and macro processes constantly occurring all around and within each of us.

Presented in the gallery's project room, many of Nguyen's atmospheric cyanotype compositions record the ghostly outlines of natural materials such as dirt, rocks, and local plants she collects. In works such as *Comet NeoWise*, Nguyen blends disparate artistic

techniques, wherein she scans and inverts graphite and watercolor paintings with traditionally photographic processes, resulting in kaleidoscopic, colorful, split and mirrored photo prints on rag paper. Onto these works a proprietary saline solution is applied, resulting in unpredictable salt crystal formations that further add a sense of natural intervention, providing a unique crystalline signature.

Manifesting in a variety of experimental photographic processes and finished with glittering salt formations, Christine Nguyen's personal explorations into nature's mysterious forms and structures beautifully mirror thought patterns and internal landscapes. In *Lightness Within the Cosmic Universe*, Nguyen invites viewers to pause and reflect on the tiniest details of our physical surroundings, as they may offer quiet insight to questions of the grandest scale.

About Christine Nguyen

Christine Nguyen was born and raised in California and currently resides in Denver, Colorado and also works in Long Beach, California. She is a lover of animals, plants, and nature. She received her B.F.A from California State University, Long Beach and M.F.A from University of California, Irvine. Solo exhibitions of her work have been featured at the Hammer Museum (Project), Michael Kohn Gallery, Baik Art in Los Angeles, Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, St. Augustine, FL; 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong; Pataphysical Society PDX, Portland, Oregon and Galerie Quynh, Vietnam. Her work has also been included in group exhibitions at the Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kiel, Germany; Laguna Beach Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA; Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, CA; Kleefield Art Museum, Long Beach, CA; Long Beach Museum of Art, LB, CA; San Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Esther M. Klein Gallery, University Science Center, Philadelphia, PA ; IMAC, Tijuana, Mexico; Sprueth Magers Projekte, Munich, Germany; Dancing Elephants Project, Bogota, Columbia and Churner and Churner, New York.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as Art in America and ARTnews, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The New York Times hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and The Denver Post declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.



Image: Christine Nguyen, *Comet NeoWise*, 2020, archival pigment ink on Entrada Moab Rag with salt crystals, 40.5 x 50 in. (102.9 x 127 cm)

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