

glimpse

research *and* creative discovery

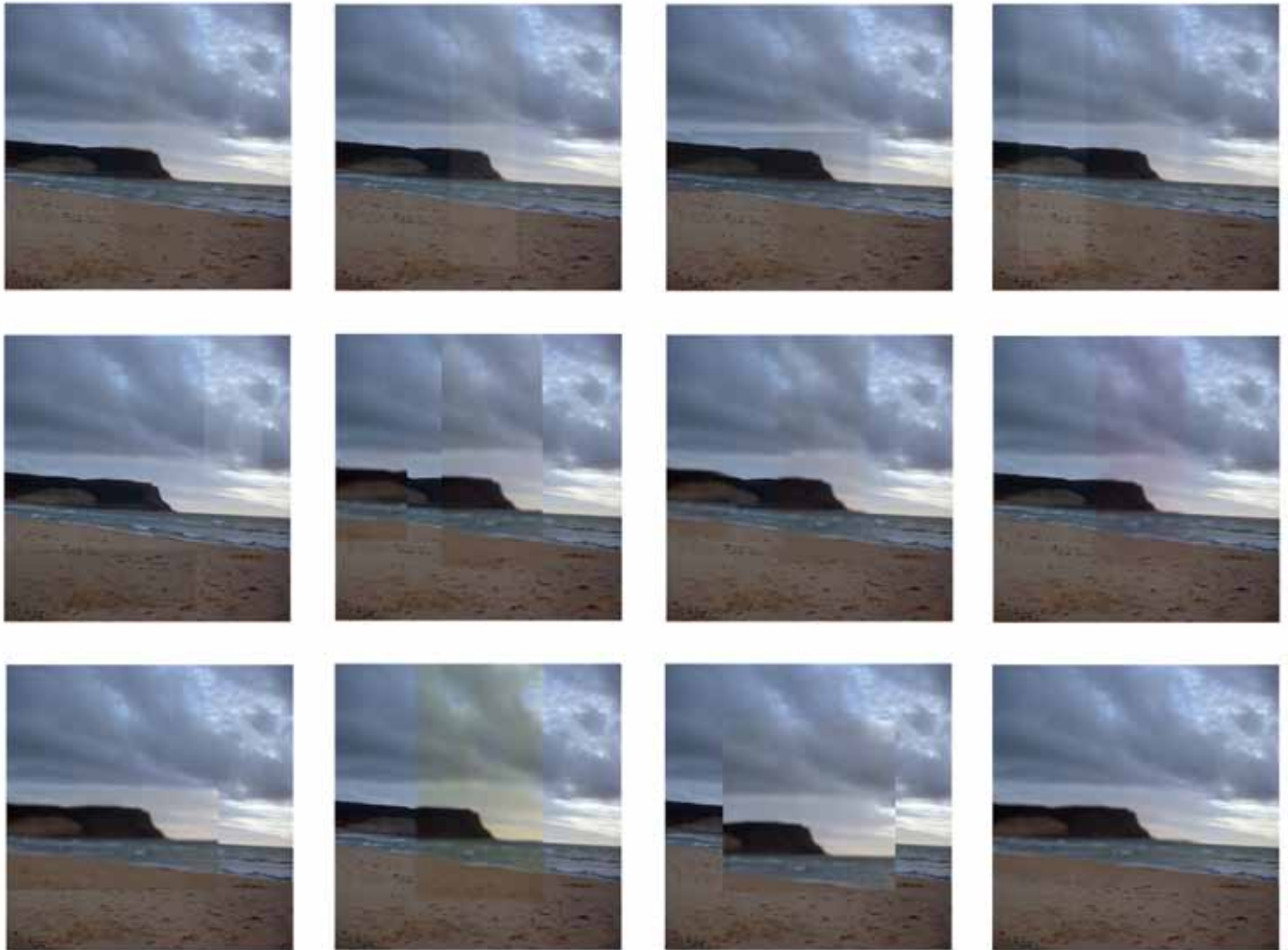
Clemson University

spring 2013



Cracking the case of creativity.

Creativity can venture multiple versions.



Composite24, 2012, Ann Pegelow Kaplan

Ann Pegelow Kaplan's photographic fictions

Ann Pegelow Kaplan, candidate for the master of fine arts, specializes in contemporary photography and digital arts but was trained as an anthropologist. Rather than pursue traditional scholarship in a narrowly defined specialty, she explores the connections between subjects.

Before coming to Clemson, Kaplan earned a master's degree in ethnography and folklore, and she worked as a documentarian and museum curator. She admires the documentary and the exhibition, she says, because they both attempt to render a true presentation of reality, but she also wants to pursue creative forms often described as fictions, written or visual, and how they might present "an even truer representation of the world."

Kaplan arrived at this idea through a blend of arts and

sciences. In neurobiology, she found science documenting the ways in which we construct and interpret every moment of our experience. "We can't really expect to truly know reality," Kaplan says. "It's not how we're built. What we do know is our own experience of it—our personal curation of reality."

In her photography, Kaplan presents multiple realities for a single location. A forest, a train, a seashore in Iceland—each appears in several versions.

"If different people can have varying realities, and multiple realities appear to be possible, then the difference between truth and fiction comes into question," Kaplan says. "We wonder which reality is true and whose vision is most correct. The line between documentary and art becomes blurred."



Sight I, 2012



Sight II, 2012



Sight III, 2012

Connecting two cultures

As a poet and as a scholar who studies science communication, Steve Katz finds one not-so-obvious relation between “the two cultures” of the sciences and the humanities: creativity. “Both scientific communication and poetry reveal the creative, metaphoric root of all language and knowledge,” Katz says.

Steven B. Katz is the R. Roy and Marnie Pearce Professor of Professional Communication and professor of English in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities. “From this Earth” first appeared in Groundswell 1 (Winter 1985).

From this Earth

|

A Science of Subjectivity

For the few moments on this earth,
we become too sensitive in these things:
green light, dusty plants
in blue windows, the sunny wood;

we seek a science of subjectivity
to escape—perceive cells of green leaves
synthesizing in the genesis of summer,
white tracery of a particle breeze

in the patterned chaos of trees,
atomic complexity of grass in the heat,
the sun radiating in fields,
chemical skies, cosmic weather:

and we dream, dream in the infinite
window we can't see through.
Oh yes, we will test for God,
attaching electrodes to the stars.

||

The Inhuman Stars

A human egg cracks; a white hatch
opens; and a satellite is born,
slipping out, alone, into a universe
that engulfs it like an infant star.

And is there something childlike
and prophetic, in those awkward sensors,
slowly extending, reaching out
to the expanding void of oblivion;

something comic and pathetic,
in that radar like an ear cupped
to a cosmic wall of darkness,
listening, listening to the static

of creation, searching for what
it cannot find here among the inhuman stars,
satellite falling, endlessly falling
into the night that is ours?

Steven B. Katz