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Age & Seduction: Karen Hymer

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Dark Spring Press is proud to announce the publication of *Age & Seduction: Karen Hymer*. Karen Hymer, a native of Tucson, Arizona, has spent most of her life in the Sonoran desert. Hymer's work explores the effects of time on the human body. Elements of her beloved desert home—decaying plants, a shed snakeskin, cactus fruits—echo the forms of the human figure and the aging of the flesh. Utilizing muted earth tones and subtle hand coloring, her richly detailed photogravures emphasize the interplay of texture, pattern, light and shadow. Her approach to image making explores the blending of photosensitive materials, digital media and printmaking; this is particularly evident in her photopolymer gravure prints which marry the exquisite detail of photography with the beauty of ink on paper. Hymer reveals the body as part of nature subject to the same processes as the plants and animals living on the land that surrounds us, poetically embracing the human condition.

Age & Seduction: Karen Hymer may be purchased on our website: www.darkspringpress.com or from the artist: karenhymer@gmail.com. Hymer is preparing to exhibit the artwork presented in this book as a traveling exhibition; please inquire through Dark Spring Press or with the artist. A Book Launch + Signing Party for Karen Hymer will be held on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 from 3 to 7 pm at Dark Spring Press, 5634 E. Linden St., Tucson, AZ 85712; details below.

About the book

- *Age & Seduction: Karen Hymer*
- First Edition, 2018
- Softcover trifold with hand-sewn binding
- Foil stamping on front and back
- 56 pages with 26 full-color plates
- 8 inches x 9.5 inches
- Printing and Binding by Arizona Lithographers
- 200 copies including 164 trade copies and 36 Collector's Edition copies presented with an original signed and numbered photogravure created by the artist
- ©Karen Hymer and Dark Spring Press, 2018; Foreword ©Ann Simmons-Myers, 2018
- Trade edition \$35; Collector's Edition \$135
- ISBN 978-0-9993408-3-7



About the images

Throughout her work, Karen Hymer intentionally brings the aging female body into view. The images presented in this artist's debut monograph are culled from two of her recent series of photopolymer gravures: *Remnants* (2013-2016) and *Flesh and Food* (2015). Her series *Flesh and Food* was influenced by the intriguing cookbook *Aphrodite: A Memoir of the Senses* by Chilean writer Isabel Allende who states that food, like eroticism, starts with the eyes. Hymer's images pair the body with foods believed to be aphrodisiacs. Fruits and vegetables, once young and luscious but now past their prime, are paired with bodies that display the evidence of age—speaking to us of the memories of youth and beauty.

Hymer's series *Remnants* explores the relationship between the aging human body and the processes of decay in the natural world. By combining natural elements from the Sonoran desert with the human form, Hymer reveals hidden connections. Hymer states, "I grew up in the desert collecting dead animals, dried plants and rocks...Combining photography with printmaking, I emphasize the interplay of texture, pattern, light and shadow, working with the muted earth tones I know best." In many of these images, Hymer exposes details typically hidden from sight, creating abstract representations that defy recognition. Devoid of context, these images cannot be confidently identified even as male or female, internal or external, healthy or marred. Each texture, crease, and coloration unapologetically marks the vagaries of time, an intimate testament to the mysteries of the aging body.

See more images of *Age & Seduction: Karen Hymer* at www.darkspringpress.com/hymer/

About Karen Hymer

Karen Hymer is a visual artist and educator. Hymer earned her BFA in Photography from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University, continuing on to earn her MA and MFA in Photography from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Hymer actively exhibits her work both nationally and internationally. Recent venues include the Phoenix Art Museum, The Los Angeles Center of Photography, The Washington Printmakers Art Gallery, The Center for Photographic Arts, and The Center for Fine Art Photography. Her work is in several public collections, including the Polaroid International Collection and the Center for Creative Photography, as well as many private collections. Hymer was the recipient of an Rfotofolio Choice Award, and received the Grand Prize in the International Juried Photographic Solarplate Exhibit at Alex Ferrone Gallery, both in 2016. She received a Contemporary Forum Grant from the Phoenix Art Museum and an Arizona Commission for the Arts Fast Track Grant in 2014.

Following the publication of her first monograph by Dark Spring Press in 2018, Hymer will be embarking on the next chapter of her professional career by opening a working, teaching and exhibition space in Silver City, New Mexico within the coming year. **Hymer is preparing to exhibit the artwork presented in this book as a traveling exhibition; please inquire through Dark Spring Press or with the artist.**

Read an interview with the artist here: www.sonoranartsnetwork.net/karen-hymer.html

View the artist's website here: www.karenhymer.com/

Events

Andy Burgess and Dark Spring Press will host a **Book Launch + Signing Party for Karen Hymer on Saturday, May 19th from 3 to 7 pm.** Books and prints will be available for sale at the event, which will take place at **Dark Spring Press, 5634 East Linden Street, Tucson, Arizona.** The event is free and open to the public.

Please see our Facebook event here: www.facebook.com/events/1564543366976271/