**CHRISTINE NEILL Statement**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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My work chronicles the ephemeral states of the natural world in layered

mixed-media paintings. By combining the immediacy of fluid paint mediums

with my digital photographs, I interpret a life long fascination with biology and the environment. Through metaphor, myth and oddities of biotic phenomona, I note intersections where environmental and anthropological worlds meet. The effects of invasive species and environmental changes on human life, and the reaction of the earth’s habitat to these threats, underlie my investigations and images.

My practice typically involves scrutinizing the landscape for organic matter that suggests human activity or emotive biological configuration. I then line my studio with the collected specimens, which I research before making a series of drawn studies. Drawings and watercolors are created and layered with archival ink-jet prints. To do this, I scan the plant material or digital photos, adjusting in Photoshop based on aesthetic inclination. Test prints are crafted as crucial references when applying the first drawing/ watercolor layers. The digital image is then printed onto the painted surface. I continue to paint/draw until the combined mediums produce a compositional balance. As the layers coalesce, they depart from observation in favor of expressive representation of an observed object.

When appropriate, I add an additional stratum printed on Plexiglas and separated from

the ground by spacers, allowing shadows from the foreground to fall on the painted and printed surface below. This work celebrates the intricacies of thriving ecosystems yet laments threatened species. Such dichotomies, in nature as in art, bind us together as living entities in, on, and of the earth.