

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High-res images available [here](#).

THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS THE EXHIBITION *WUNDERKAMMER*, AN EXAMINATION OF OBJECTHOOD IN PHOTOGRAPHY, FOR SUMMER 2021

On view: May 14 – July 17, 2021

CHARLESTON, SC – The [Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art](#) at the College of Charleston presents an exhibition of work by artist Dan Estabrook entitled *Wunderkammer*. There will be a members-only preview day with timed admission and limited spaces on Thursday, May 13, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM. The exhibition will be on view in the Halsey Institute galleries from May 14 – July 17, 2021. Gallery hours are 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Monday - Saturday and 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM on Thursdays. The galleries are closed on Sundays. The Halsey Institute galleries are open to the public and admission is free.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

In *Wunderkammer*, the work of Dan Estabrook oscillates between image and object and back again. Using antiquated forms of photography, such as salt prints and tintypes, Estabrook examines the objecthood of photography and its ability to represent the truth. He often combines multiple tintypes or adds metal to his images, further commenting on photography's connection to reality. Interested in the studio as a site for fabrication, Estabrook's sleight of hand in creating still life tableaux asks viewers to reconsider why things appear as they do.

Dan Estabrook discovered photography in his teens through the underground magazines of the punk-rock and skateboarding cultures of the 1980s. Estabrook has continued to make contemporary art using the photographic techniques and processes of the nineteenth century, with forays into sculpture, painting, drawing and other works on paper.

Early photographers sought to correct by hand the technical limitations of their new art, yet over time it is their hand-work that can seem to tell the real story: a rose-tinted cheek could now be brighter than the faded face it once enlivened. In combining the hand-made image with the magic of the machine, Estabrook's "corrections" and re-imaginings can begin to tell a tale of their own—a hand holds an invisible sculpture, a braid turns to rope, a painted sea doesn't quite hide what it should.

Using 19th-century techniques and celebrating their flaws and failures, Estabrook makes seemingly anonymous photographs in order to re-imagine a more personal and dream-like history of photography, seen from a 21st-century perspective. With these processes, he can create his own “found photos”—highly personal objects in which to hide secrets and stories. Estabrook is not interested in revisiting the past; instead, he wishes to make contemporary work inspired by the ever-growing gap.

ABOUT DAN ESTABROOK

Dan Estabrook was born and raised in Boston, where he studied art at city schools and the Museum of Fine Arts. He discovered photography in his teens through the underground magazines of the punk-rock and skateboarding cultures of the 1980s. As an undergraduate at Harvard University, he began studying alternative photographic processes with Christopher James. In 1993, after receiving an MFA from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Estabrook continued working and teaching in Illinois, Boston, and Florida, eventually settling in Brooklyn, New York.

Estabrook has continued to make contemporary art using the photographic techniques and processes of the nineteenth century, with forays into sculpture, painting, drawing, and other works on paper. He has exhibited widely and has received several awards, including an Artist’s Fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts in 1994. A documentary on Estabrook and his work was produced in 2009 for Anthropy Arts’ Photographers Series. He is represented by the Catherine Edelman Gallery in Chicago.

EVENTS DURING WUNDERKAMMER

Member Preview Day for *Wunderkammer*

Thursday, May 13, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

RSVP to halseyRSVP@cofc.edu with your desired reservation hour and number of spaces needed. Join or renew your membership at halsey.cofc.edu/sustain/join

Current Halsey Institute members at any level can reserve one of 15 hourly spots to view the exhibition the day before it opens to the general public.

Virtual Artist Talk: Dan Estabrook

Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 PM

Free admission and open to the public

This event will happen online at halsey.cofc.edu/live

Exhibiting artist Dan Estabrook will speak with visitors about his exhibition and art-making process.

Halsey Talks: Photography and Objecthood

Monday, June 7, 7:00 PM

Free admission and open to the public

This event will happen over Zoom. RSVP to Bryan Granger at GrangerBW@cofc.edu to participate

Halsey Talks are an ongoing series of roundtable discussions on intriguing concepts in art. While they may take advantage of exhibitions on view at the Halsey Institute, they are open-ended in nature.

Curator-led Tour of *Wunderkammer*

Thursday, July 15, 7:00 PM

Free admission for all Halsey Institute members

This event will happen over Zoom. RSVP to halseyRSVP@cofc.edu. Join or renew your membership at halsey.cofc.edu/sustain/join

Join the Halsey Institute's curators for an exclusive guided tour of the exhibition. Explore the exhibitions, get insider knowledge, and meet other Halsey Institute lovers!

GALLERY HOURS AND COVID-19 POLICIES

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In accordance with the College of Charleston's COVID-19 precautions, all gallery visitors and Halsey Institute staff will be required to wear a cloth face covering while on the College of Charleston campus, including inside the Halsey Institute's galleries.

The staff member at the reception desk will welcome guests from behind a Plexiglas barrier. There will be a maximum of 15 visitors inside the gallery spaces at any one time. We ask that visitors remain six feet away from others. Exhibition information will be printed large format on the walls and available by QR code to allow for proper distancing between visitors. Our Biblioteca reference library and the Joanna Foundation Video Cavern will remain closed through July 2021.

ABOUT THE HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.

Location: The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts, College of Charleston
161 Calhoun Street, 1st Floor (corner of St. Philip & Calhoun Streets), Charleston, SC 29401

Parking: Available at metered spaces on surrounding streets and in the St. Philip and George Street Garages

Gallery hours: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Monday - Saturday and 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM on Thursdays. The galleries are closed on Sundays. These hours are subject to change.

FREE ADMISSION and OPEN to the public.

Tours: Free virtual guided group tours are offered through the Halsey Institute's Looking to See program.

Email HalseyTours@cofc.edu for inquiries.

Social media accounts: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

For more information: call 843.953.4422, visit halsey.cofc.edu, or e-mail halsey@cofc.edu

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