

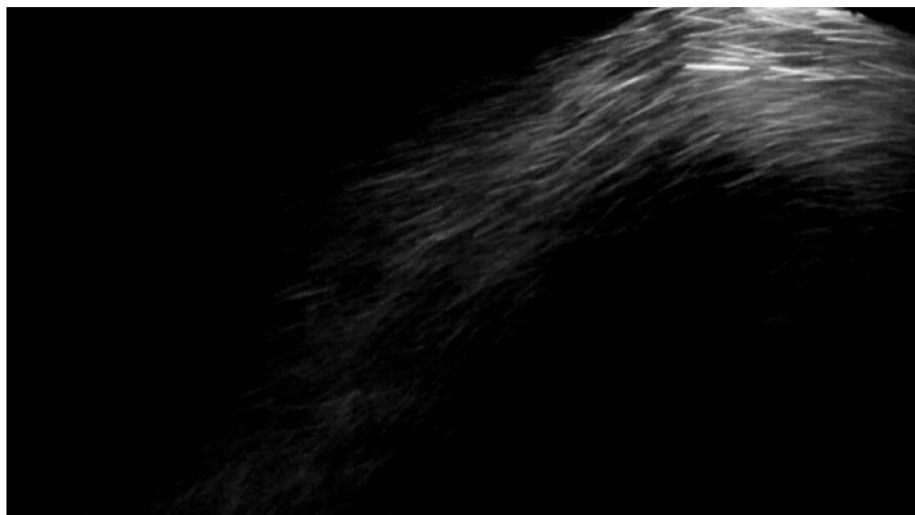


Georgie Friedman Snow Study

Oct. 5 – Dec. 5, 2021
Freedman Gallery

Georgie Friedman's Snow Studies: Nature as Artist, Light as Medium by Honor R. Wilkinson



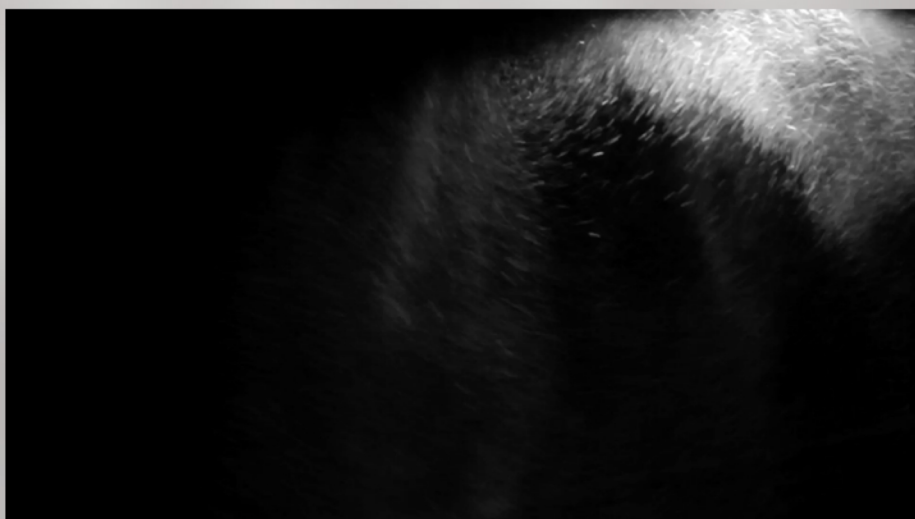
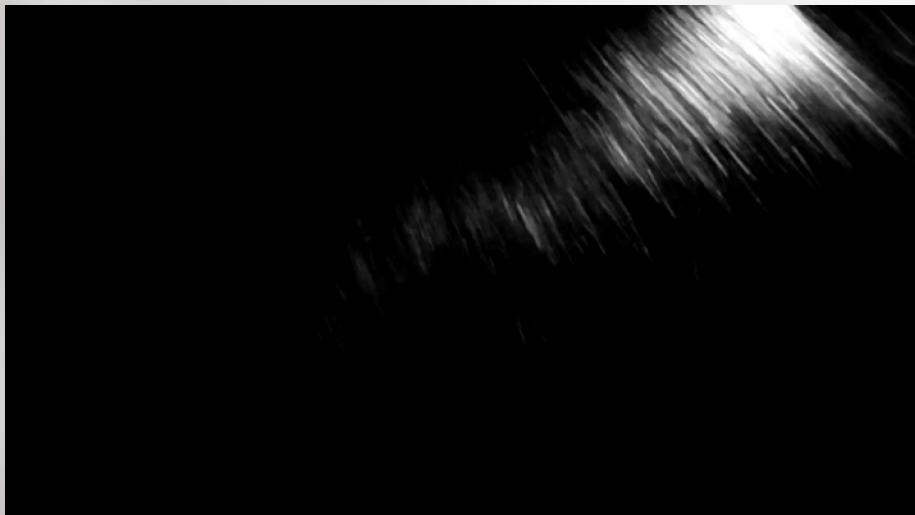


Georgie Friedman's Snow Studies: Nature as Artist, Light as Medium

Interdisciplinary artist Georgie Friedman creates people-centered stories and observational studies that investigate environmental subjects ranging from ice melt, hurricanes, and the water cycle, to tides, storms, and cloud formations. Friedman utilizes photography, video, and site-specific installations to examine the natural phenomena that act upon humanity and in which humanity exists. As she explains, through her practice she began “contemplating our general fragility, physically and psychologically, in relation to these immense atmospheric and oceanic phenomena.” In the case of Georgie Friedman: Snow Study II (2013) however, her thoughtful observation of a blizzard emphasizes the grace of a meteorological phenomenon, directing the viewers in a new visualization of a largely familiar experience and an appreciation of the natural beauty of the wind and the snow’s properties. Georgie Friedman: Snow Study II is one of three silent videos the artist created utilizing focused lighting to capture the impactful and complex, but invisible forces of wind through the subtle dancing, fast streaming, delicate floating, and intense swirling movements of snow sweeping across the screen. While a viewer’s association with a winter blizzard may be the tactile or emotional experience — cold temperatures and blowing wind, damp clothing, tense bodies, and the inconvenience of the storm itself — Friedman’s video prioritizes sight as the sensory lens.

Although Friedman’s sixteen minute composition is produced as a video, the resulting moving images of snow have a formal emphasis on line and gesture that align them with the act of drawing. When considering the definition of drawing centers on the use of lines, Friedman’s video takes on a new form, with the wind, snow, and light acting as artistic media in the creation of these natural light drawings. In Friedman’s moving drawing Snow Study II, the wind driving the snow “draws” the lines, while the reflection of light off the white snow reveals the form.

Using light as a drawing medium has been an experimentation in the art world for many years, with “light drawings” emerging in the late nineteenth century and in the early twentieth century, most notably by artists Man Ray (1890-1976) and Pablo Picasso (1881-1973). Surrealist artist Man Ray began utilizing light as a medium in 1922 with the use of light-sensitive paper in his self-titled “rayographs.” In 1935, Man Ray continued his experimentation with light as an artistic tool in a series of long-exposure photographs individually titled Space Writing. These still images captured the lines and forms he rapidly



“drew” with a small light in mid-air, superimposed over the figural image of himself creating the drawings. Picasso’s experimentation with light drawings was inspired by the Life magazine photographer Gjon Mili who visited Picasso in France in 1949. Utilizing two cameras and long exposure times, Mili photographed Picasso using a small light as a drawing utensil, capturing the artist’s movement and gesture through the contours created by the path of light. As Life reported in 1950, “Picasso tries new art form, drawing in thin air with light,” for which he participated in six sessions with Mili, and performed thirty light drawings.

Like Georgie Friedman’s snow studies, the twentieth century light drawings of Man Ray and Picasso captured movement, form, and the passing of time through long-exposure images of light. However, both practices also emphasized the individual artists themselves. While Friedman’s artistic intent is evident in her framing and use of light as a medium to depict form, movement, and time in her snow studies, she reveals nature as the artistic hand rendering the form.

Georgie Friedman is an internationally exhibited interdisciplinary artist who received her MFA in video art, installation, film and photography from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in conjunction with Tufts University, Massachusetts. She is currently a lecturer in the Art, Culture, and Technology Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Freedman Gallery at Albright College, named after former Albright trustee and alumna Doris Chanin Freedman, is located on the ground floor of the Center for the Arts. Since its inception, the gallery focuses primarily on contemporary, living, American artists and hosts approximately 12 exhibitions each year rotating in the Main Gallery, Project Space and Foyer Gallery. Freedman Gallery is located at 13th & Bern Streets, Reading, PA 19612. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m. The gallery is closed on Mondays, holidays, breaks and summer. (See Albright.edu/calendar).

Named a top national college by Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education, Albright College (founded 1856) is home to a diverse community of learners cultivating integrity, curiosity, connection and resilience. The college's flexible curriculum encourages students to combine and cross majors to create individualized academic programs. Close faculty mentorship and numerous experiential learning options create opportunities for Albright graduates to exceed their own expectations. Located in Reading, Pa., Albright is home to undergraduate students, adult learners and graduate students.

Follow the CFA and artist Georgie Friedman on Instagram @georgie.friedman or visit georgiefriedman.com. For more videos by the artist, visit: vimeo.com/georgiefriedman and www.youtube.com/user/georgiefriedman.



www.albright.edu

"Georgie Friedman: Snow Study"

Exhibited in the Foyer Gallery, Freedman Gallery, Albright College, Reading, Pa.,
October 5 – December 5, 2021.

Essay written by Honor R. Wilkinson, M. St., University of Oxford
Guest Curator, Albright College.



Cover image: **Georgie Friedman**, stills from "Snow Study II (Blizzard)," 2013,
black and white, silent HD video, 15:34 minutes.