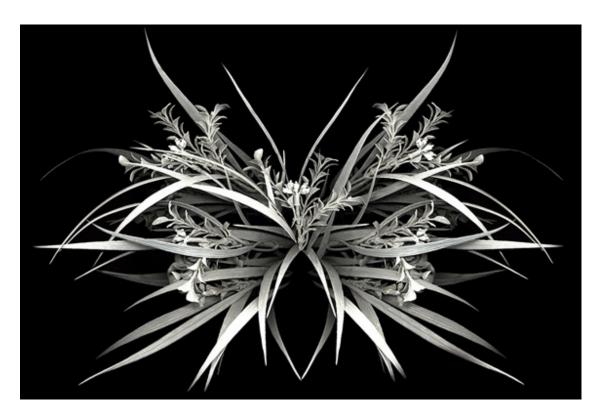
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Francine Funke Through the Grass Darkly

March 26, 2015 – June 6, 2015 Opening: Thursday, March 26, 6-8pm

Mixed Greens is pleased to present *Through the Grass Darkly*, a site-specific window installation by Francine Funke. As an extension of the artist's *Mechanical Botanical* series, archival digital prints on vinyl fill the glass with abstracted plants, creating a discourse between the existing organic qualities of biological forms and the synthetic manipulation of those same forms into increasingly unfamiliar strokes.

Funke's previous three-dimensional works on paper illustrate nature motifs as ornamental elements in an interior space. A room is made intimate and recognizable though the saturation of florid textile patterns in the style of Art Nouveau and blossoming bouquets – pivotal imagery in her artistic practice. The *Mechanical Botanical* series focuses solely on the plants, highlighting their ever-developing, changing, and mutating presence by digitally rendering the images.

In *Through the Grass Darkly*, Funke's use of digital mechanization is an eschewal from her previously straightforward depiction of nature. Using photographs of plants against a black background removes them from the context of thriving organisms in symbiotic relationships, and places them in a manufactured environment ready for human examination. The photographs are altered, transforming them into innovations of scientific exploration. The artist's technological interference in the stable biotic structure of the plants discloses a fascination with the vitality of nature while simultaneously questioning the consequence in the synthesis of organic and industrially constructed life.

Francine Funke received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Cornell University School of Art, Architecture, and Planning, Ithaca, NY, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Hunter College in New York City. She has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Fort Lauderdale, FL; Scottsdale Center for the Arts, AZ; the rotunda of the Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC; and a solo display in the windows of Tiffany & Co. on Fifth Avenue, NYC. Group exhibition venues include the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; Parrish Art Museum, Watermill, NY; Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY; Discovery Museum, Bridgeport, CT; Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT; George Segal Gallery at Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ; Gallery of Contemporary Art at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT; and the Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT.