



## **ANGELA PIEHL** | Artist Statement

My collages consider the relationship between accumulation and the feeling of alienation from nature, as well as question preconceived notions of nature and beauty. I quote imagery from media sources such as lifestyle magazines, which possess inherent, suggestive codifications for gender as well as seductive imagery of luxury, lifestyles and consumer behavior. I incorporate a hybridization of aesthetic orders: synthetic and organic, flora and fauna, and bodily and constructed forms.

I am interested in finding the edge between what is natural and what is unnatural, interpreting emotions relevant to both the sublime and the abject aspects of my particular culture and time in history, and dealing with sensory information that is simultaneously seductive and repulsive. I conglomerate elaborate elements, which results in strange new forms bound together through tenuous and categorically "unnatural" forces and unruly, ambiguous spaces in which the synthetic and organic merge and overlap in unexpected ways. This is staged in my work at the macro and micro scale. There is a sense of looking into some future space of ruin, or a place where nature has overtaken the human-made or merged with it.

I desire to capture the beauty of what surrounds us, both natural and synthetic as well as the existential crisis of a trajectory with our planet directly created by harmful relationships to consumer objects and the impacts of their visual culture. And for me, it is an attempt to interpret this paradox as a gender-queer person and an artist. The resulting visual ambiguity is an invitation for the viewer to decipher the source material, question their preconceived notions about nature and beauty, and acknowledge the complex realizations that such questions can evoke.