



REN CANNON | Artist Statement

While I'm drawn to the incongruous beauty of human destruction it is, essentially, evidence of a sickness. Things live in spite of us, not because of us. This series started in response to revisiting photos of the Animas River after the Gold King Mine spill. The water was a golden ochre from the spill roughly 9 miles north of Silverton, CO all the way to New Mexico. The 3 million gallon spill affected waterways through Colorado, New Mexico, the Navajo Nation, and into Utah. It is one of those stunning things that halts you with wonder until the rest of you catches up and you realize you're looking at another example of the devastation humanity causes on a daily basis.

I'm trying to capture the dissonance of an artificial palette vs what is really in nature, using movement and texture to tie the imagery back to the natural world. Additionally, I wanted to address the interruptions humanity creates in the environment, from road cuts and pit mines to diverted and altered waterways. We have a romantic ideal of what nature should be but in reality most if not all of us have never seen nature in its unadulterated state. How are we to find a compromise between the dueling ideologies of conservation and extraction?