

Ehrlich Steinberg  
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Los Angeles, CA 90038  
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Tuesday - Saturday 12-6pm

April 20 - June 1 2024  
Opening: Saturday April 20 6-9pm

Jeffrey Stuker  
*From a Defoliated Monograph*

Ehrlich Steinberg is pleased to present the solo exhibition *From a Defoliated Monograph* by LA-based American artist Jeffrey Stuker. The exhibition includes video, sound, slide projection, prints and a collaborative work made with artist Nour Mobarak.

Stuker's meticulously 3D rendered video *Wet Season, Dry Season* reconstructs a display case of mimetic insects at the Hope Department of Etymology inside the Museum of Natural History in Oxford, UK. A virtual camera slowly pans over the vitrine housing preserved butterflies (Nymphalidae), praying mantises (Mantodea), and stick bugs (Phasmatodea). Closeups of the insects' bodies demonstrate the mimetic approximation of the environments in which these specimens once lived. The insects' appearance uncannily replicates dead leaves, spiderwebs, and tree bark. Equally, these extreme closeups become suggestive of pixel arrays that comprise digital screens. Across four speakers, ambient sounds recorded at the museum by the artist surround the gallery, featuring the murmured chatter of museum visitors.

In the back gallery, two Hasselblad PCP-80 slide projectors each rotate through eighty slides of digitally rendered examples of biological mimicry. A closeup of a *Kallima inachus* wing could easily be mistaken for a Himalayan oak leaf; a closeup of a *Fulgora laternaria* abdomen could easily be mistaken for lichens on a Guyanese tree branch.

In the upstairs gallery, two images from the slide series are reproduced as mounted archival pigment prints, alongside a collaborative work with Nour Mobarak. In the collaborative work, Stuker's rendered image of a paperbark tree, placed against the interior face of a plexiglass box, slowly disintegrates as it is consumed by Mobarak's mushrooms. During the course of the exhibition, the image will continue to deteriorate as the mushrooms grow, then stabilize and harden. To the left, an unaltered example of the same image is preserved within an identical plexiglass box.

The exhibition is accompanied by "Light-Likeness-Inachus", a new text by Lakshmi Luthra.

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Jeffrey Stuker (b. 1979; Fort Collins, CO, USA) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA, USA. Stuker received his MFA from Yale University, New Haven in 2005. Previous and forthcoming exhibitions include *Pacific Standard Time* at the Getty Museum/University of California, San Diego, CA (2024); *Atavism for the Future* at Ehrlich Steinberg, Los Angeles, CA (2023); *Next Year in Monte Carlo* at Ben Hunter, London, UK; *Objects of Desire* at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA (2022); The International Biennial of Contemporary Photography at MOMuS, Thessaloniki Greece (2021) and *Made in L.A.* at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2020). Most recently, works from Stuker's installation at the Hammer and his solo show, *Next Year in Monte Carlo* at Ben Hunter were acquired by LACMA.

Nour Mobarak (b. 1985; Cairo, EG) lives and works in Los Angeles, CA, USA. Her work has previously been shown at Rodeo Gallery, London, UK (2023 & 2017); Bureau, New York, NY (2023); MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA (2022); Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY (2021 & 2019); Hakuna Matata Sculpture Garden, Los Angeles, CA (2020), Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA (2020) and Cubitt Gallery, London, UK (2019). Her performances have taken place at the Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL (2022); the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA (2020); the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2019); LAXART, Los Angeles, CA (2019); Potts Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2018) and Stadslimeit, Antwerp, NL (2016).