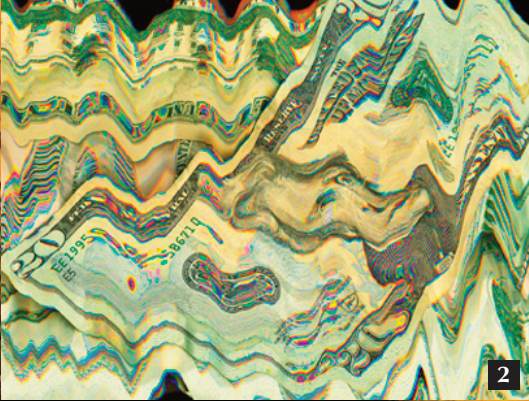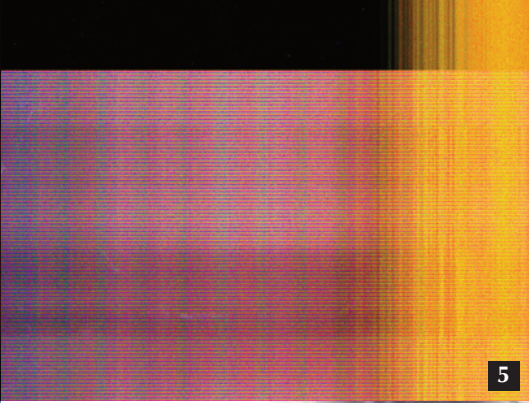# What's the common element linking these images?

They are not photographs!

Scannography
The Art of Scanning

Project for
a common
exhibition

Prepared by Christian Staebler,
Patri Feher and
Mark McAfee Brown

A diverse collective of international artists exploring an emerging digital medium, often described as "scanner photography", are celebrating the introduction of their intriguing art to a worldwide audience.
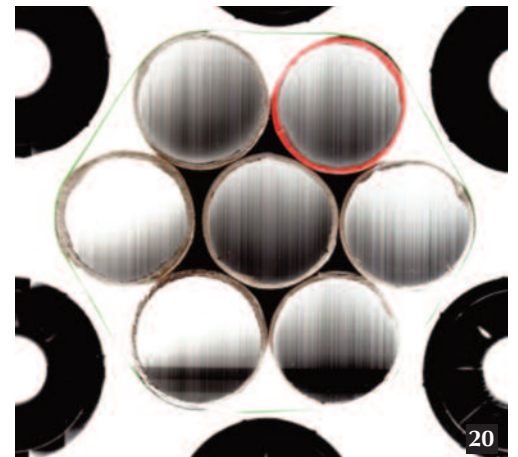
Scannography

What is it ?

Scannography is the use of a flatbed scanner, instead of a camera, to capture images of three dimensional objects

Unlike a conventional camera, a flatbed scanner does not record an "instant" image, rather, it captures a linear point in time and three dimensional space. This "captures" the presence of time and movement. A scannographer can focus on an immovable objects or record a series of stop-motion activity on a single image. Even though perspective and depth of field is limited an astonishing degree of minute detail and dimensionality is present. The result can often be compared to an image created through a macro lens or a large format camera.

These major departures from conventional camera photography are, exploited by the artists, some bypassing these differences to build their own scanning camera devices.

Scannography

Since when ?

A technique born with the invention of flatbed scanners became available to many more at the end of the 1980s

Photocopy-Art could be considered as the prehistory of scannography.

Some pioneers were already using scanners in the 1970s. They were often working in large companies and had access to this new (and then quite expensive) technology. It was with the arrival of affordable scanners that imaginative photoartists got the idea of laying something on the scanner other than a document or a flat sheet of paper. Receiving little or no media attention, scannography remained an obscure artform during those years, but was nevertheless developed independently. Artists that had began experimenting, did so on their own, each one finding their own way and creating their own unique approaches and techniques.

Artists that tried this media were fascinated by this novel way of capturing images and felt the need to share their knowledge and images…

With the development of the Internet and the creation of photo and image sharing sites and forums, groups of mutual interest were formed.

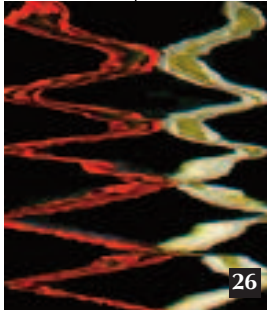# Scannography

Who ?

The site "scannography.org" was created as a gathering place for digital artists experimenting with the "scanner as camera" medium

As Alfred Stieglitz championed early 20th century pioneers of artistic photography to a fine art medium through the Photo-Secession movement (which also introduced Picasso and modern art to the US), scannography.org is striving to introduce scanner photography to a worldwide audience. The most popular form of scannographic composition may be Still Life bouquets of flowers. Delicately hued, stationary and the perfect size to fit into the scanner's frame.

To create a kind of digital herbarium has often been the base of scannographic research. Some other artists, more rare, have dared to put their faces on the glass! "scannography.org" was born from the desire to help all of these people to meet, share experiences, techniques and to help new talents become better known. This site has also helped this medium to be-

come well known and to give the artists new opportunities. The images we create were often poorly received because they were perceived as a simplistic, non "artistic" form of expression apart from normal photographic standards. Celebrated mainstream photographers that were scanning natural subject matter didn't publicize that fact. From a historical perspective scannography is following in the footsteps of early fine art photography, being a subject of controversy and even derision by the mainstream photographic community.

With the help of Patri Feher, we have built up this growing community, launched a blog and tried to define our Artform. We are now, less then a year after inception, a group of about fifty scannographers, from many of countries all around the world (USA, France, Brazil, Russia, Spain, Germany, Philippines…)

Scannography

An exciting
emerging medium

What ?

Where conventional photography interprets a moment in time, scannography presents the world through a window of time in a way the eye cannot perceive, in a heightened reality. A bit like looking through a microscope revealing an unseen world, another play of visual and psychological possibilities.

While scannography can present an image largely indiscernible to one made with a conventional camera, reality escapes with startling, viscous self-portraits, still-life arrangements without perspective the enlarged, sensual details intact; and the strangely fluid, captured movements of

the human body and curious or ubiquitous objects.

An artist may display a capture in it's purist presentation without additional refinement. Some artists deliberately exaggerate a degraded result. Others employ the capture as an element of design for mixed media and many more use it as a starting point for a realistic or representational artistic statement, often combining multiple captures. With today's artistic tools a digital darkroom and digital easel, captured subject matter can be finessed into a painterly composition or a hyperreal photographic statement.
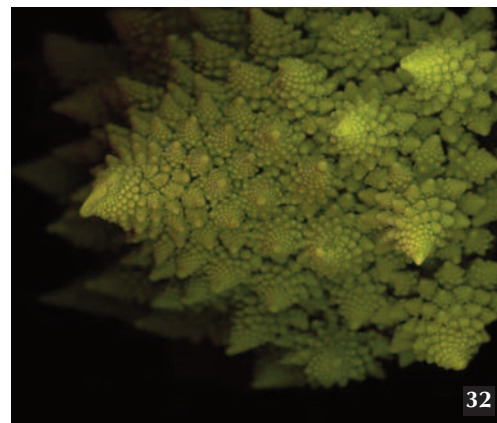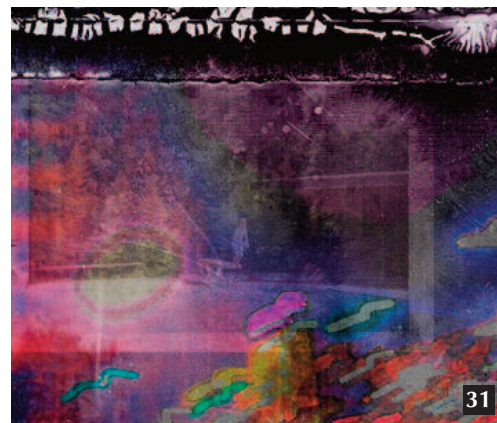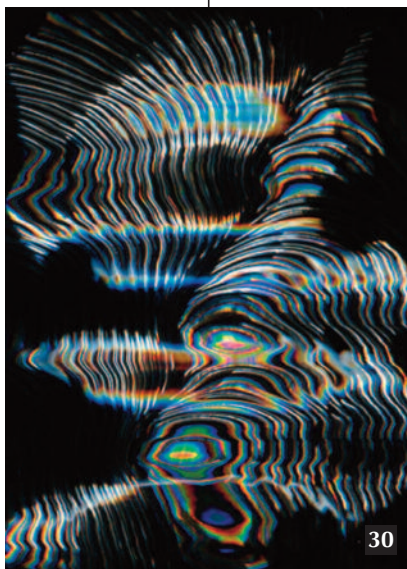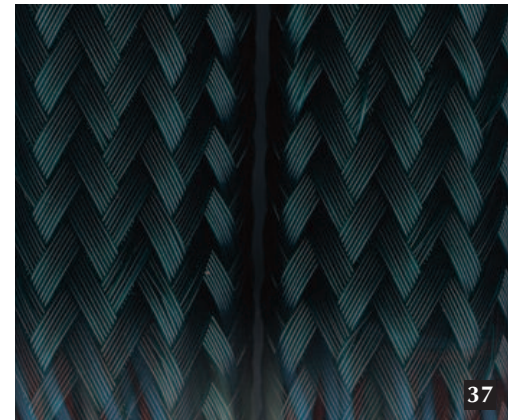
Scannography

Why ?

Our images, in their diversity and connection, would make an extraordinary exhibition that has yet to be introduced to a world-wide audience

33

Unpredictably, touching upon a wide range of themes from the Intimately personal to the sensually decorative, these images also are destined to be of great interest to an international audience, in the same way that conventional fine art photography is.

34

The quality, and originality of these images should be enthusiastically welcomed by Art Museums, Art Galleries, Exhibition Spaces and Art collectors worldwide.

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37

Scannography

How?

The possibilities are numerous and we would be happy to have discussions and share ideas for an International Exhibition of Scannographers with Museum Directors, Gallery Owners and Directors of Artist's Exhibition Spaces.

Presently, the project consists of each artist contributing 4 or 5 images (approximately 100 images total, though this can easily be adjusted upward or downwards, depending on the size of the exhibition space). What the project needs first is a venue for the exhibition. This is why you have been contacted with this proposal, these images and the websites which showcase the diversity of participating artists. We'd like to send you a digital or print portfolio of our work or have our representative meet with you directly.

Thank You for your interest,

Christan Staebler, curator and representative, Europe
Patri Feher, East Coast USA representative
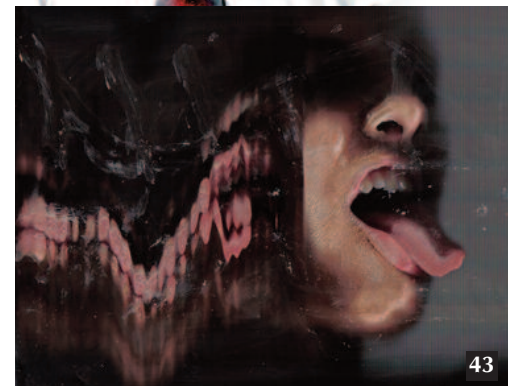Mark McAfee Brown, West Coast USA representative

Scannography

The participants ?

Tony Anthony, USA (45)
www.scannography.org/artists/Anthony-Tony.html
Liz Atkin, Great Britain (15, 39, 43)
www.lizatkin.moonfruit.co.uk
Patrick Beilman, USA (36)
www.pbeilman.com
Marc McAfee Brown, USA (9, 16, 18, 35)
www.markbrowndigitalarts.com/index2.html
Janet Dwyer, Canada (14)
www.janetdwyer.com/gallery
Patri Feher, USA (7, 28, 40)
www.blackrosegallery.com
Francesco Gioia, Italy (5, 20)
www.scannography.org/artists/Gioia-Francesco.html
Simon Gris, France (4, 25, 38)
http://j.nadroj.free.fr/scan/index-.html
Dale Hoopingarner, USA (41)
www.bitsofnature.biz
Sandi Hutchins, USA ()
http://imagesnwest.com/works
Pierre Jarlan, France (8, 23, 42)
www.pierrejarlan.com
Diane Kaye, USA (2, 26)
www.scannography.org/artists/Kaye-Diane.html

Elena Kropanova, Russia (3, 22, 33)
www.scannography.org/artists/kropaneva-elena.html
Chris Leyland, USA
www.chrisleyland.info/gallery.html
Nancy MacLeod, USA (31)
www.scannography.org/artists/MacLeod-Nancy.html
Jeff Mihalyo, USA (1, 12, 27)
www.mihalyo.com/photography/90s/02_99_01.html
Angely Pamila Chi, Philippines (21)
http://blog.scannography.info/?q=Pamila
Richard Rownak, USA (19, 44)
http://rownak.com/scantography
Jaime Ruas, Spain (11, 37)
www.jaimeruas.com/
Christian Staebler, France (6, 17, 24, 29, 37)
www.chris-staebler.com/scans.html
Jens Standke, Germany (10, 30)
www.jens-standke.de/pics
Rosemarie Stanford, USA (13, 32)
http://fruitofmylabor.com/
Marsha Tudor, USA (34)
www.scannography.org/artists/Tudor-Marsha.html

Scannography

Contacts ?

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Mark M. Brown, West Coast USA representative

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christian@chris-staebler.com

Concerned sites:
http://www.scannography.org
http://blog.scannography.info
http://www.blackrosegallery.com
http://www.chris-staebler.com
http://www.markbrowndigitalarts.com