

Random Selection

Kelly Pankowski

My artwork is deeply influenced by my early history as both a practicing catholic and from my time studying biology at the undergraduate level. To be more specific, the conflicting foundations of thought behind both the theory of evolution and prevalent religious dogmas fuel the conceptual framework of this body of work.

Through the invention of five new animals, I ask people to question why these animals do not exist in our ecosystems. Did a few species miss their spot on Noah's ark? Are Charles Darwin's theories of mutation, migration, and genetic drift accurate to suggest that the process of natural selection crushed their chances of survival? The search for answers to such overwhelming questions encourages me to explore the reasons why the world we live in came to be, and ultimately prosper. With Digital reconstructions and photography, I manipulated various existing animal species to speculate their potential outcomes based on evolutionary theories.

Ultimately, my work is based in both invention and evolutionary science, therefore it is my hope to give the viewer multiple avenues to engage the imagery beyond what is purely didactic or aesthetic.