



## Art Feature—“Cryographics Series”

Katherine Carlson, Photography\*

In my work I explore different routes of visualizing information and investigate the nature of how we see, integrating my scientific education into my fine arts practice. I question the way in which a photograph can operate, focusing on the potential interaction between the observer and the image. The act of seeing has as much to do with the past as the present; memory can command what an individual might perceive, subtly directing present thought.

In my Cryographics series, I consider the phenomenon of pareidolia and how it affects our interpretation of abstract visual information. It manifests in our ability to recognize faces and important information, leading us to view things such as electrical sockets as small, surprised faces. Operating through memory and genetic predisposition, it allows us to see similarities between random stimuli and things that are familiar; if, however, an individual is presented with abstract imagery, what might they see? I select small portions of visual information created through manipulating the surface of wet-plate photographic emulsions. By confounding scale and reference for the viewer, these photographs transcend what they actually depict: the play of ice, light, and air upon a pane of silvered glass.



\*Katherine Carlson is an artist living in Eugene, Oregon. Currently pursuing a BFA in Photography at the University of Oregon, she also holds a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in General Art. She specializes in alternative photographic processes, but also engages with text, performance, and any other medium that best illustrates her ideas. Fascinated by the many facets of vision, memory, and illusion, she uses art to explore the divide between physical and mental experience. Her work can be found online at [www.katherineanncarlson.com](http://www.katherineanncarlson.com).

