

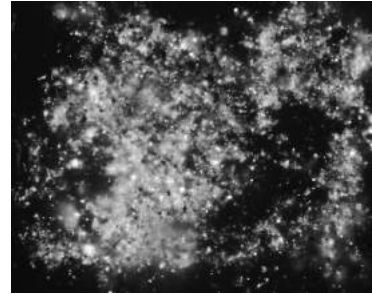
REACTIVE MATTERS

Photography and Nuclear Materials

June 3 – July 23, 2016

Opening reception: Friday, June 3, 6-8pm (Introduction by the exhibition curator at 7pm)

Check below for additional dates.



Artists: Jeremy Bolen | Abbey Hepner | Shimpei Takeda

Curator: Yaelle S. Amir

The exhibition *Reactive Matters* explores the ways in which nuclear energy permeates our surroundings – its presence lingering in the soil we tread, the water we consume, and the roads we often travel. To reveal its direct impact on our environment, artists **Jeremy Bolen**, **Abbey Hepner** and **Shimpei Takeda** employ alternative photo processes that incorporate radioactive materials at different stages of the image's production. Similar to documentary photography, they provide various vantage points of the issue—from close up views of the effects of radioactive material when in contact with film, to a comprehensive view of nuclear waste facilities in the U.S. through the fogged lens of one of nature's most toxic elements.

Jeremy Bolen traveled to several locations where nuclear energy remains and documented the invisible energy by burying film in the contaminated soil. He then unearthed and loaded this film into his camera to capture the inconspicuous surrounding landscapes. **Abbey Hepner** returns to an obsolete nineteenth-century photographic process that employs uranium instead of silver to form the image. These uranotypes track and document the sites in the U.S. that transport nuclear waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. To create the photograms in his series *Trace*, **Shimpei Takeda** collected soil from various locations in Fukushima representative of life and death such as temples, shrines, war sites, and his own birthplace. He then exposed photo-sensitive paper to radiation emitted from contaminated particles in the soil.

These three projects expose traces of radioactive matter in our soil, air, and water—a silent, invisible energy revealed here through contact with photographic materials. The resulting works are eerily ironic as their forms take on poetic, abstract and often dreamy qualities. They embody the tension in contemporary culture between the uses and abuses of nuclear matter that serves both as a source of energy as well as a destructive force of war and ecological catastrophe. It is with their very existence that these works function as material witnesses to the effects of nuclear energy on the environment, and on those inhabiting it.

For artist bios and more information about the exhibition [click here](#).

For press inquiries contact Yaelle Amir at curator@newspacephoto.org or 503.963.1935

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

All public programs are free, open to the public, and take place at Newspace (1632 SE 10th Ave), **unless otherwise noted**. Additional event information is available on [Newspace's website](#).

* **Opening reception:** Friday, June 3, 6-8pm (introduction by curator at 7pm).

* **Discussion: *Material Impact*:** Thursday, June 9, 6:30-8:00pm. Organized in partnership with [Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility](#).

Speakers: Jeremy Bolen, artist | Abbey Hepner, artist | Chuck Johnson, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

* **Film Screening:** Friday, July 22, 6:30-8:00pm. [Containment](#): A 2015 documentary film by Peter Galison and Robb Moss.

Part observational essay filmed in weapons plants, Fukushima and deep underground—and part graphic novel—Containment weaves between an uneasy present and an imaginative, troubled far future, exploring the idea that over millennia, nothing stays put.

Stay tuned for future public programs: bit.ly/NSupcoming

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GALLERY INFORMATION:

Address: **1632 10th Ave, Portland, OR.**

Gallery hours:

Monday – Thursday 10:00am-9:30pm

Friday – Sunday 10:00am-6:00pm.

T: 503.963.1935 | W: www.newspacephoto.org

Social: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Vine](#) | [Artsy](#)

For press inquiries, contact Newspace Curator Yaelle S. Amir at curator@newspacephoto.org or 503.963.1935.

Images [L-R]: **Jeremy Bolen**, *Jackpile Mine #3*, 2016. Archival pigment print made from film buried at site, archival pigment print made from film to exposed to the rio paguate river, sediment and water from rio paguate river, 16"x20"; **Abbey Hepner**, *Nevada National Security Site, outside of Las Vegas Nevada Radioactive waste shipped to WIPP: 107,087 Gallons*, 2014. Original Uranotypes (uranium prints), 9"x13"; **Shimpei Takeda**, *Trace #16, Lake Hayama (Mano Dam),'* 2012. Gelatin silver print, 16"x20". All images courtesy the artists.