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From: Inform

Subject: EM: EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION 10/5! Decompositions: Photography by Nancy Macko

From: Erin Curtis



EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION

[Decompositions: Photography by Nancy Macko](#)

Saturday, October 5 | 7–9 PM

Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery

251 E 11th Street, Claremont

Enjoy food, drinks, live music, and new work by Nancy Macko at the Williamson Gallery! Presented in partnership with Scripps Presents, Sustainability at Scripps, and the California Botanic Garden.

ABOUT *DECOMPOSITIONS*

Artist and Scripps College professor Nancy Macko's new body of work transports viewers through art history and the cycles of life. In 38 photographs of her kitchen compost bin, Macko transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. Discarded onion and garlic skins, apple peels, cauliflower florets, asparagus stalks, and artichoke leaves create ethereal and earthy scenes. The images are simultaneously realistic and abstract, evoking artistic traditions from the Renaissance to Surrealism. A visual alchemy of art and science, loss and transformation, the exhibition is a striking exploration of scale and time as well as a serene meditation on decay as a new beginning.

Decompositions is curated by Erin M. Curtis, PhD, Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Director of Scripps College's Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery. The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated publication featuring essays by Dr. Linde B. Lehtinen, Philip D. Nathanson Senior Curator of Photography at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens; art historian and Scripps College Professor Emerita Dr. Mary MacNaughton; and Contributing Editor to *Art in America*, art critic, and author Eleanor Heartney.

Decompositions, its companion publication, and related programs have been made possible through the generous support of Benjamin Moore & Co. and Catalina Paints, Carol Vernon and Robert Turbin, Jennifer Bradley Caballero, Sally Strauss and Andrew E. Tomback, Scripps College Dean of Faculty Research Funds, Scripps Fine Arts Foundation, Sustainability at Scripps, the Jean and Arthur Ames Endowment, and the Mary Davis MacNaughton Endowment.

The exhibition will be on view at the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery through January 12, 2025.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

[Botanical Art & Science: Leaf Skeletons](#)

Sunday, October 20 | 2 PM
California Botanic Garden

By stripping away the soft parts of the leaf, leaf skeletons allow us to see the vascular system that supports the life of a plant. Celebrate autumn by turning whole leaves into leaf skeletons and preparing them to create botanical art. Learn from a botanist about the science behind leaf skeletons (called *cleared leaves* by scientists) and work to create your own leaf skeleton sampler from a variety of California native plants. Presented in partnership with California Botanic Garden.

[Scripps Presents Greenhouse Art Series: Linde B. Lehtinen](#)

Thursday, October 24 | 7 PM
Balch Auditorium and Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery

The Huntington's Philip D. Nathanson Senior Curator of Photography, Linde B. Lehtinen, offers a deep into the history of botanical photography, followed by a conversation with artist Nancy Macko and a tour of *Decompositions*. Presented in partnership with Scripps Presents and made possible by the Alexa Fullerton Hampton Fund.

Lecture, Gallery Tour, and Tea

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 | 2 PM

Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery

Don't miss this last chance to view *Decompositions*! Artist Nancy Macko will discuss her newest body of work and guide visitors through the exhibition. Presented in partnership with the Scripps Fine Arts Foundation.

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