

# schmick contemporary

e:schmickcontemporary@gmail.com

jake**STARR**steven**CAVANAGH**

# QUEER Ecology

Feb 9-23

2.706. george st. Chinatown

## QUEER ECOLOGY

Jake Starr and Steven Cavanagh

Through the framework of Judith Butler's theory of ecological assemblage which refutes the idea of ecosystem's as self-regulating, Starr interrogates the emergent relationships of organisms under constant anthropocentric flux. We, as a human species, are offered two opposing futures. We either embrace the human as macrobiota, a symbiotic component of a multi-species superorganism, or we continue to isolate, as extremophiles, in our creation of a sterile earth.

Cavanagh takes a leap from Irish philosopher George Berkely "*if a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound.*" Unanswerable questions and unknowable realities. The work speaks to the idea that what is not seen or heard, may never be verified, never defined and never accepted as truth. Simply a never-ending loop of imagined experience and existence.

Starr and Cavanagh explore imagery as a metaphor for historical queerness and the current deconstruction of ways of being. Thinking outside of the human frame and beyond ourselves, the unknowable realities that define human experience are no more than a thought experiment which can never be labelled and always in flux.

e:schmickcontemporary@gmail.com

# queerEcology

## works list

Steven Cavanagh  
*An early 18th century  
thought experiment*  
inkjet print on Platine fibre  
rag  
180 x 200 cm  
2019  
\$4000

Steven Cavanagh  
*Box 1*  
cyanotype on recycled  
cardboard box  
30 x 30 x 10 cm  
2022  
\$250

Steven Cavanagh  
*Box 2*  
cyanotype on recycled  
cardboard box  
30 x 25 cm  
2022  
NFS

Steven Cavanagh  
*Box 3*  
cyanotype on recycled  
cardboard box  
25 x 70 cm  
2023  
NFS

Steven Cavanagh  
*Box 4*  
cyanotype on recycled  
cardboard box  
5 x 20 cm  
2023  
NFS

Steven Cavanagh  
*Box 5*  
cyanotype on recycled  
cardboard box  
7 x 20 x 5 cm  
2023  
NFS

Steven Cavanagh  
Jake Starr  
*Superorganism*  
single channel video  
2:30 min  
2023  
NFS

Jake Starr  
*Extremophilia*  
Dye sublimation print on  
aluminium  
33.38 x 50 cm each  
2022  
\$300 each

Jake Starr  
*Dermal Calcification*  
Dye sublimation print on  
aluminium  
33.38 x 50 cm each  
2022  
\$300 each

Jake Starr  
*Holobionte*  
Coated steel, plastic bone, burrowed wood, plastic netting, farmers friend  
(*Bidens pilosa*) seeds, vinyl tubing, magnets, housefly (*Musca domestica*),  
bracket fungus (*Laetiporus portentosus*), glass vessels (left to right; gv1.  
anaerobic water, gv2. unidentified seeds in rain water, gv3. plaster in tap  
water, gv4. algae bloom (cyanobacteria) in stagnated water, gv5. runoff-fed  
pond water, gv6. chemically poisoned soil and potentially contaminated  
honey)  
58 x 29 x 70 cm  
2022  
NFS

