



Heidi Norton  
*to Threptikon*



# Heidi Norton

## *to Threptikon*

February 6 - March 29, 2014

This publication was created on the occasion of Heidi Norton's 2014 solo exhibition at moniquemeloche.

moniquemeloche

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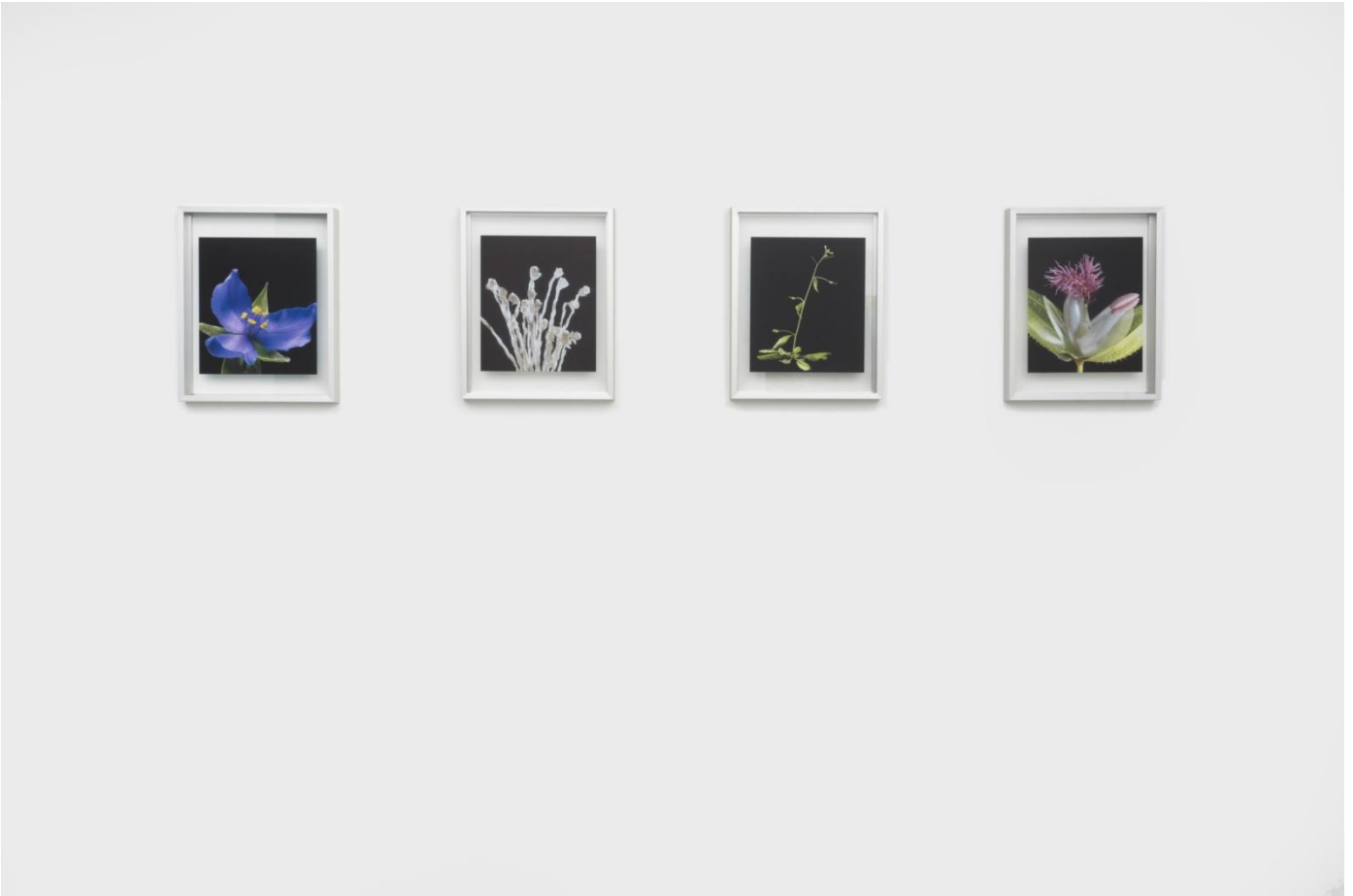
*to Threptikon*, 2014, Installation view

Aristotle postulated that plants have a vegetative soul called "to threptikon". Centuries later, Charles Darwin hypothesized that plants are cognitive organisms with a "root-brain" acting as a control center. These ideas are still hotly debated, but recent studies prove that plants are not just passive, immobile organisms; they're endowed with sophisticated abilities to communicate, signal, and detect danger-above ground and below.

In her first solo exhibition at moniquemeloche, *to Threptikon*, Heidi Norton employs the parallels between plant and human cognition in order to explore ideas of unseen and invisible systems at work in the natural world. Light and living plants are Norton's primary mediums, channeled through photographic film, glass, resin, wax, along with plant material detritus from her studio. At times Norton's works are evocative of chlorophyll slides viewed under a microscope lens; in other works she foregrounds the use of glass as a medium for vision and a means of preservation. These new works build on Norton's multi-disciplinary practice as an artist, which is more generally anchored in her interests in science, ecology and human ideas about nature and preservation-past, present and future. In *to Threptikon*, Norton considers the value of slower modes of vision while alluding to the significant role of plant life in biomedicine, eco-sciences, space exploration, and our own human security.

**Heidi Norton (American, born 1977, lives Chicago)** received her BFA from University of Maryland, Baltimore (1999), her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2002), and currently teaches at Northwestern University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Norton had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art as part of their “Chicago Works” series in 2012 and at Northeastern Illinois University Fine Art Center in 2011. She is currently in Ghost Nature at Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois Chicago, traveling to La Box at National School of Art Bourges in Bourges, France in March 2014. Norton has had other group exhibitions at the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore, Chicago Cultural Center, Dominican University Chicago and The Knitting Factory in New York. Norton is developing a major site-specific installation for Elmhurst Art Museum, where she will be the artist-in-residence this summer. Her work is in the collections of the Midwest Photography Project at the Museum of Contemporary Photography, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Joyce Foundation. A panel discussion about Norton’s work, plant intelligence, and contemporary art practices is scheduled Saturday, March 22nd 1pm at moniquemeloche - panelists to be announced.

*Special thanks to West Supply, James J. Riviello, Steven Haulenbeek and Eric Mirabito*



***To Threptikon, 2014***

Pigment prints on glass

Edition of 3 + 2APs

4 parts, 14 x 11 inches each



*Spiderwort (Tradescantia)* from the *to Threptikon* series, 2014

Pigment print on glass

14 x 11 inches

Courtesy of James Caudell, Florida Native Plants Nursery



*Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora)* from the *to Threptikon* series, 2014

Pigment print on glass

14 x 11 inches

Courtesy of the Archives of Rudolph and Leopold Blaschka and the Harvard Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants





*Rockcress (Arabidopsis)* from the *to Threptikon* series, 2014

Pigment print on glass

14 x 11 inches

Courtesy of the Arabidopsis Biological Center





*Panic Grass (Panicum boreale)* from the *to Threptikon* series, 2014

Pigment print on glass

14 x 11 inches  
Courtesy of the Archives of Rudolph and Leopold Blaschka and the Harvard Ware  
Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants



*Ellipse with Nitrogen Fixers and Snake Plant Buds (dedicated to Tent Rocks, 2013-2014*

Glass, wax, resin, plant materials, rock salt

49 x 26 x 12 ¾ inches



*The Museum Archive (dedicated to Edward Steichen's Delphiniums, MOMA 1936)*, 2014  
Glass, resin, plants, beam splitter glass, photo gels, photographic prints and film  
56 x 36 x 22 inches





*The Vitrification of Vegetation 1-5, 2014*  
Cast glass, resin, plant material, film, minerals  
Dimensions vary



*The Vitrification of Vegetation 4*, 2014  
Cast glass, resin, plant material, film, minerals  
14 inches in diameter



*The Vitrification of Vegetation 6, 2014*  
Cast glass, resin, plant material, film, minerals  
12 x 10 x 4 inches





*Ultraviolet Plant Shelter, 2014*  
Archival pigment print  
30 x 24 inches



*Radiation Jungle, 2014*  
Archival pigment print  
30 x 24 inches





*After the Pillar of Purple Fire, 2014*

Archival pigment print

30 x 24 inches





*Aloe Vera Silhouette with Sprout, 2013*

Archival pigment print

21 x 17 inches

# HEIDI NORTON

American, born 1977, lives in Chicago

## Education

1999 University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD, B.F.A

2002 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL, M.F.A.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 *Prismatic Nature*, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL  
*To Threptikon*, moniquemeloche, Chicago, IL
- 2013 *Light in the Dark*, Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 *Chicago Works*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Reasons to Cut into the Earth*, Johalla Projects, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *Not to Touch the Earth*, NEIU Fine Art Center, Chicago, IL  
*Not to See the Sun*, Ebersmoore, Chicago, IL  
*Between New Moons*, HungryMan Gallery, San Francisco, CA

## Group Exhibitions

- 2013 *Ghost Nature*, Gallery 400 at University of Illinois, Chicago, IL  
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY  
*Point of Departure*, Arcade Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Plant Life*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *Sic Transit, Gloria Mundi: Industry of the Ordinary*, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL  
*Controlled Environments*, Mark Wolfe Contemporary, San Francisco, CA  
*NEU!*, Ebersmoore, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *Glass House*, NUDASHANK, Baltimore, MD  
*Chain Letter*, Samson Projects, Boston, MA  
NADA Fair, Invisible Exports, curated by Philip von Zweck, Hudson, NY  
*The World as Text*, designed under the direction of John Preus, Center for the Book and Paper Arts, Chicago, IL  
MDW Fair, Ebersmoore, Chicago, IL  
MixArt Session Anniversary at the James Hotel, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Smoke Rises in Gay Rings Above the Roof*, curated by Joe Jeffers, Bodega Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 *Ah Wilderness*, Ebersmoore, Chicago, IL  
*Welcome to the NEighborhood*, William H. Cooper warehouse, coordinated Andrew Rafacz Gallery, Chicago, IL  
MixArt Session at the James Hotel, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Group Show in conjunction with NEXT Art fair, Swimming Pool Project Space, Chicago, IL  
NEXT Art Fair, Swimming Pool Project Space, Chicago, IL  
*Landscape, Portrait, Still Life* curated by Philip von Zweck, HungryMan Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Site Unspecific* curated by Jessica Cochran, Dominican University, Chicago, IL  
NEXT Art Fair, Swimming Pool Project Space, Chicago, IL
- 2007 *How Do I Look*, Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *PanSonic* curated by Heather Weber, NIU Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2004 *Undershorts Film Festival*, Congress Theatre, Chicago, IL  
*E-Girls*, Los Angeles Center for Digital Arts, Los Angeles, CA  
*The Witching Hour*, Bucket Rider Gallery (presently Andrew Rafacz Gallery), Chicago, IL  
*Square Pegs Photography Slide Show*, Ladyfest East, New York, NY

### Group Exhibitions continued

- 2003 *Observatori Festival*, Museum of Sciences, Valencia, Spain  
*Project #002*, The Knitting Factory, New York, NY  
*International Open Image 2003*, Deluxe Gallery, London
- 2002 MFA Thesis Exhibition, 847 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL  
Juried Group Show, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
- 2001 Fluid Interfaces, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL Juried Group Show, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
- 2000 *SNAPSHOT*, Contemporary Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD  
*Between*, Mill River Gallery, Baltimore, MD  
*Up and Coming Artist*, Gomez Gallery, Baltimore, MD

### Professional Projects

- 2012 Visiting Artist, New City, September 2012  
Cultural Catalyst, MCA, August 2012
- 2011 *Mantras for Plants* biweekly column, Bad at Sports, a collaboration with Claudine Ise  
Interviews include John Opera, Eric May, Barbara Kasten  
*After the Fires of a Little Sun*, collaborative artist book project with writer Karsten Lund  
*Art in the Earth: A Field Guide from the Soil to the Studio*, collaborative artist book project with writer Monica Westin
- 2002 Co-Curated, Project Enduring Look, 1926 Gallery, Chicago, IL

### Selected Bibliography

- 2014 Dluzen, Robin, "Communal Curiosity in the Suburbs of Chicago: Heidi Norton at Elmhurst Art Museum", *Art F City*, August 12.  
"Review: Heidi Norton/Monique Meloche Gallery", *Newcity*, March 4.  
Foumberg, Jason, "The 18 Best Shows in Chicago Art Galleries", *Chicago Magazine*, January.
- 2013 Shapiro, Deborah, "Studio Visit: Heidi Norton, Artist", *Sight Unseen*, October.  
Pearson, Laura. "Plant Life at Western Exhibitions", *Time Out*, February 14.  
De La Hez, Ryan. "Plant Life at Western Exhibitions", *Beautiful Decay*, March 1.  
Foumberg, Jason. "Top 5 Shows of 2012 in Chicago", Looking Back, Looking Forward, *Frieze*, Jan.  
Velez, Pedro. "Eye Exam: Top 20 Picks for 2012 in Chicago and the Midwest, MCA", *Newcity*, December 20.
- 2012 Velez, Pedro. "Just Another Day". Scene and Heard, *Art Forum*, October 1.  
Picard, Caroline, "Goal-less Living Things: The Plants of Heidi Norton", *Art21*, September 25.  
WBEZ, "Chicago Amplified", *Cultural Catalyst*, MCA, Aug.  
Hodgins, Ruth. "Heidi Norton at Chicago Works Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art", *Daily Serving*, Aug.  
Gossert, Stephen, "Chicago Work: Heidi Norton", *Flavorpill*, Aug.  
Westin, Monica. "Reasons to Write into Art. On Textual Collaboration with Artist Heidi Norton", *Art21*, Feb.  
Zulz, Emily. "Heidi Norton, Reason to Cut into the Earth", *Chicago Artist Archive Sixty Inches from the Center*, Feb.  
Richie, Abraham., "Reasons to Cut into the Earth", *Flavorpill*, Feb.  
Barros, Luan. Make Space Studio Visit, Feb.
- 2011 Weinberg, Lauren. "Top 10 Art and Design shows of 2011," Dec 25.  
Velez, Pedro. "Best Solo Show in a year or so," Dec 15.  
Foumberg, Jason. *Frieze* Anniversary Issue, Sept.  
Waxman, Lori. "An Alternative Reading List," *Chicago Tribune*, July 13.  
Ise, Claudine. "Artist Profile 'Heidi Norton,'" *Art Ltd.*, May/June.  
Weinberg, Lauren. *Time Out*, Issue 321, 21-27 April.  
"On our Chicago Watchlist," *Art Slant*, May.  
Weinstein, Michael. *Newcity*, April 11.  
Westin, Monica. *Flavorpill*, April.  
Kirsch, Corrina. *Shifter Magazine*, Issue 17, Matt Metzger guest editor, April.  
My Green City, Published by Gestalten, Feb.



### **Selected Bibliography continued**

- 2011 Christian, Ryan Travis. "Beautiful Decay, 'Heidi Norton,'" Feb. Today's Issue, Issue 97, <http://todaysissue.org>
- 2010 *Ruby Magazine*, Issue 48, Oct.  
Coldberg, Jim. "The Conscientious-- Heidi Norton," Sept.  
Fremderman, Bea. "i heart photograph-- Heidi Norton", Sept.  
Zavos, Allison. "Feature Shoot: Heidi Norton", Sept.  
Uribe, Vincent. LVL3 Artist of the Week, Sept.  
Ruiz, Steve. "Studio Visit," *Chicago Art Review*, May.  
Ise, Claudine. *Bad at Sports*, April.
- 2009 Ruiz, Steve. Chicago Art Review, Site Unspecific at Dominican University, Nov.
- 2007 Ovation TV, "Art & the City: Chicago", Sept.  
Time Out, Art Reviews: "How Do I Look" at Monique Meloche, July.
- 2005 Time Out, Art Reviews: "Pan-Sonic" NIU Art Museum, Chicago Gallery Dec.
- 2004 Workman, Michael. "The Witching Hour," *New City*, July.
- 2003 Pabellon DD, Catalogue and DVD for Observatori International Festival.
- 2000 Snapshot, A CD-Rom Catalogue Produced by the Contemporary Museum.

**moniquemeloche** was founded in October 2000 with an inaugural exhibition titled *Homewrecker* at Meloche's home, and officially opened to the public in May 2001. Working with an international group of emerging artists in all media, the gallery presents conceptually challenging installations in Chicago and at art fairs internationally with an emphasis on curatorial and institutional outreach.

**moniquemeloche**

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