

PHOTOGRAPHY AS SCULPTURE



AMIR ZAKI



Opposite Page: Meditations on the Hollywood Juniper, 2008, high definition video and photographs, dimensions variable (installation detail above) Born in Beaumont, California, 1974 Lives in Huntington Beach, California

Zaki pushes the boundaries of the real and the imagined with his depictions of urban California landscapes and architecture. In his photographs, he often explores themes of ambiguity and anonymity by displacing but personifying unique architectural structures as subjects. Seen in and around Southern California, Zaki's buildings are mundane constructions transformed from their natural settings through the photographic lens to emphasize their dynamic volumes and sculptural masses in space. He brings this same sensibility to his video installation for Truthiness, Meditations on the Hollywood Juniper. In this work, the simultaneous depiction of two views of the ubiquitous plant decorating sidewalks has been transformed into an otherworldly, undulating, amoeba-like form.

EDUCATION: 1999, University of California, Los Angeles, M.F.A.; 1996, University of California, Riverside, B.A. SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS: 2007, Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York: At What Point is the Wax No Longer Wax, James Harris Gallery, Seattle; 2006, Gesture, Gold Coast Arts Centre, Surfers Paradise, Australia. SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS: 2007, Viewfinder, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, Washington; Exit Music (For a Film), Grimm/Rosenfeld, Munich, Germany; 2006, California Biennial, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA. SÉLECTED PUBLICATIONS: 2006, Vitamin Ph.: New Perspectives in Photography, Anthology, Phaidon Press, London, England: 328-329; 2003, Amir Zaki, VLHV (Valley Lake Hollywood Village), Monograph, Co-published by Roberts and Tilton, and James Harris Gallery, Los Angeles. SELECTED PUBLIC COLLEC-TIONS: Whitney Museum of American Art. New York: New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York.