

AMELIA KONOW

*Auras*

Artist Statement

In *Auras* (2015-ongoing), I consider relationships between mysticism and science while describing my emotional response to landscape. My initial inspiration comes from studying the history of spirit photography, particularly aura portraiture— a form of Kirlian photography that attempts to visualize the energetic field of the subject. While having my own aura portraits taken and researching the process, I wondered if landscapes could also have auras. Unbound from the expectation for the images to reveal an invisible energetic reality, I started using experimental methods to make the photographs I imagined. In making the work I traveled to places known for eliciting spiritual and emotional responses, namely Morocco, Hawai'i and the San Francisco Bay Area where I live and work. While photographing on location, I use unconventional tools originally intended for scientific research, such as dichroic glass and prisms to imagine what the auras of these landscapes might look like. The work is a record of my emotional response to place, and a reflection on landscapes as sites of myth and subjective experience.