

Elaine Whittaker - “Cloneology”

In “Cloneology”, a series of small wax paintings contain photographic images of *C.elegans* that Whittaker shot through a camera mounted on a high powered laboratory microscope. They are juxtaposed with wax-filled petri dishes depicting the natural stages of cell division, known as mitosis. Above a metal shelf is located a larger wax painting containing a photographic image of a set of *C. elegans* eggs shot through the same microscope. This set of eggs has been ‘cloned’, not through human intervention in a biological context, but through artistic manipulation using computer technology. On the shelf rest piles of petri dishes, containing scanned images of the CEO’s of Canada’s top forty biotechnology companies. These images, also encapsulated in wax, are undergoing their own transformation, as colonies of cells form over the surface via artistic experimentation.

Whittaker has had a very successful year. In addition to a recently awarded Ontario Arts Council project grant, her work will also be featured in solo and group shows all over the world from the Yukon to Italy. If you would like to know more about this artist, just pick up the latest issue of “MIX” Magazine, Issue 32:2.