



## Abstract

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Altering a person's color perception using digital media allows the viewer to encounter a different experience of what is being perceived in the physical world. Photographs and their ability to capture details of the environment creates an opportunity for people to remember data on a picture plane via a physical print or digital, conceptually representing a reality. Speculative Future Design enables the artist to create an alternative representation while analyzing current status and people's needs in their habitat, regardless of their geographic location.

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Speculative Design is one of many disciplines that can allow us to touch what is ahead, and this illumination of possibility is in and of itself a meaningful and powerful act of creativity, but it is only when we connect this back to new behaviors in the present that we have actually changed the probabilities of one future outcome or another and hopefully shifted towards a preferable one.<sup>1</sup> -J. Paul Neeley

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<sup>1</sup> <https://speculativeedu.eu/j-paul-neeley-after-the-speculation-is-where-the-real-work-begins/>

**Can an altered photograph play a role in shaping an alternative present and allow a person's philosophy to be experienced through a digital image manipulation encounter?<sup>2</sup>**

Where does the line between the past, present, and future blur? How can we create a moment to alter our understanding of a subject based on contextualized imagery? Thinking beyond our visual field requires imagination, speculation of how and why someone's environment creates alternative paradigms. The series *Deep-Sea Coral II* reimagines the deep sea dives as an opportunity to visualize the abstract nature of the ocean. Utilizing the archives from submersible equipment and photography recreates scenes that are vibrant and bioluminescent. Digitally enhancing the imagery allows the viewer to experience those opportunities of coming into close contact with creatures of the sea. Coral and their varied environments tell us a story through time in their protein-based branches. What can these findings tell us? Access to these archives presented a way to look into a future environment not yet explored. We could begin to think of our oceans' vastness as a parallel to the subconscious and the infinite possibilities coexisting in alternative perspectives.

I seek a connection with The Humanities Institute through the Coha-Gunderson cluster to be able to enhance, edit, and finalize my current portfolio of this group of images. My technical tool of choice is Photography and editing software to enhance and manipulate photographs, giving them an exaggerated sense of perspective and place. *Deep Sea Coral II* is a series designed to utilize the idea of (Speculative Futures) to depict an alternative to our current state of understanding of the world while offering a new view in current time. The collection has been produced through the lens of an ecocentric versus anthropocentric point of view by eliminating traces of human conquest, while praising nature in all its glory. The idea of a duality of past art historical paintings inserted into a current state of place was beautifully rendered by the artist Alexey Kondakov.<sup>3</sup> By placing figures in the photo scene, the artist was able to create a parallel into a fictional present residing within the past with the stylization of the artist's contemporary design fused with historical works.

My intention is to create abstract energy waves and a vibrational visual field through deep sea exploration archived photos<sup>4</sup> that will have a similar effect as the duality of history

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frobt.2018.00101/full>

<sup>3</sup> <http://alksko.com/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://art.ucsc.edu/news\\_events/senior-show-saul-villegas](https://art.ucsc.edu/news_events/senior-show-saul-villegas)

portrayed by Kondakov. However, the *history* will be portrayed as a dreamlike environment where the personal histories of the viewer becomes a mindscape and transcends them into a sublime experience. Where time and place only exist as a paradigm—shifting one’s perspective of reality. The present is then the vehicle to the future while having a ‘daydream’ effect, metamorphing with each individual's experiences.

## Research Processes

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Research interests in the areas of: Psychology, Oneirology, Philosophy, History of Photography manipulation, Colorimetry field guides, Creative practice, Speculative Futures.

[|Link to High Resolution Photos|](#)

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