

*Statement:*

Like most of nature, the Kukui tree (*Aleurites moluccanus*) is thought about in the context of specific uses, naturalistic documentation, and scientific analysis. We take these artificial systems for granted as reality despite the fact that they are arbitrary distinctions that we project and exaggerate to form mental categories. Everybody's perception is necessarily skewed by our minds' adherence to these imagined systems of organization.

In order to highlight this flaw in our perception and subsequent interpretation of nature, I have combined the visual language of naturalists and biologists with very personal contexts that characterize my relationship with the Kukui. Utilizing traditionally didactic styles of imagery, my work seeks to convey just how easily our minds are able to accept these subjective views as facts and convincingly bias our perception of reality, specifically as it pertains to the environment. The combination of graphite, gouache, pen, and colored pencil allows my drawings to include the meticulous detail which characterizes scientific documentation, which upon closer inspection reveals incongruities to the viewer.

*Bio:*

Malia Holubeck is a visual artist based in O`ahu. Beginning with a strong foundation in drawing, she now works across multiple mediums including metal, ceramic, and fiber. Her work focuses on using objects and imagery to highlight the psychological processes that filter our experiences, translating the hidden and intangible to the physical. She is currently pursuing her BA in psychology and BFA in sculpture at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.