

# CLIMA

Solo Artist Series

Hibiscus Gallery at Pinecrest Gardens

May 3 - May 27, 2018

Michael Gray. "Sessile Crown," Biscayne Bay Series, 18" x 24," monotype print on paper, 2018.



# Life Forms

Michael Gray

**Michael Gray** is a Miami based artist who has spent the past two decades observing the changes in the ecology of Florida including the everglades, mangroves, ocean, wetlands, woods and fields. His diverse body of work explores the relationship humans have to the planet and he approaches it through the scope of our local Floridian ecosystem. Gray's work tends to question whether we,

as a species, are able to make changes to our way of life; even after the consequences of our actions become a reality. Gray is a graduate of Fine Art from **Florida International University** and has exhibited his work in several Miami locations including the **Frost Art Museum**, the **Bakehouse Art Complex**, and **Laundromat Art Space**.

Michael Gray, "Subtidal Formation," Biscayne Bay Series, 18" x 24," monotype print on paper, 2018.





Michael Gray, "Intertidal Network," Biscayne Bay Series, 18" x 24," monotype print on paper, 2018.

**G**ray's **Life Forms** is a solo show comprised of new works that address the loss of living reef tissues in Biscayne Bay. This series of monotype prints are a documentation of the current state of the reef system which is being threatened by bleaching, disease, destruction, and pollutants exiting through urban waterways. Though the work depicts a threatened and disappearing environment, the prints are better understood as documentations of the physical experience Gray had encountered in the particular environment. Gray uses colorless abstracted form, gesture, repetition and intuitive mark making to represent his anxieties of habitat loss, the degradation

of the natural beauty of his home, the disappearance of coral and the uncertain future of our oceans. Gray has worked throughout South Florida documenting areas of refuge such as Everglades National Park. Each location, as Gray sees it, can be a microcosmic representation of life all over the globe. Life, death and regrowth are important to all natural cycles, however these unsaturated prints offer a view of a colorless, dark and capricious world on the verge of existence. This series serves as a reminder for us to pay special attention to the organisms that play a large role in the formation of life as a whole on this planet.

# {in water}

Xavier Cortada

## Xavier Cortada collaborated with Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research

(LTER) scientists to better understand the impact of global climate change on our ecosystems. He portrayed the diatoms they collect in their samples from the River of Grass to learn more about how sea level rise and environmental degradation will impact South Florida in the century to come. The works in the *{in water}* exhibition are inspired by their scientific research.

Cortada often engages scientists in his art-making: At **CERN**, Cortada and a particle physicist created a permanent digital-art piece to celebrate the Higgs boson discovery. Cortada has worked with scientists at **Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest** on a water cycle visualization project driven by real-time data collected at a watershed in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

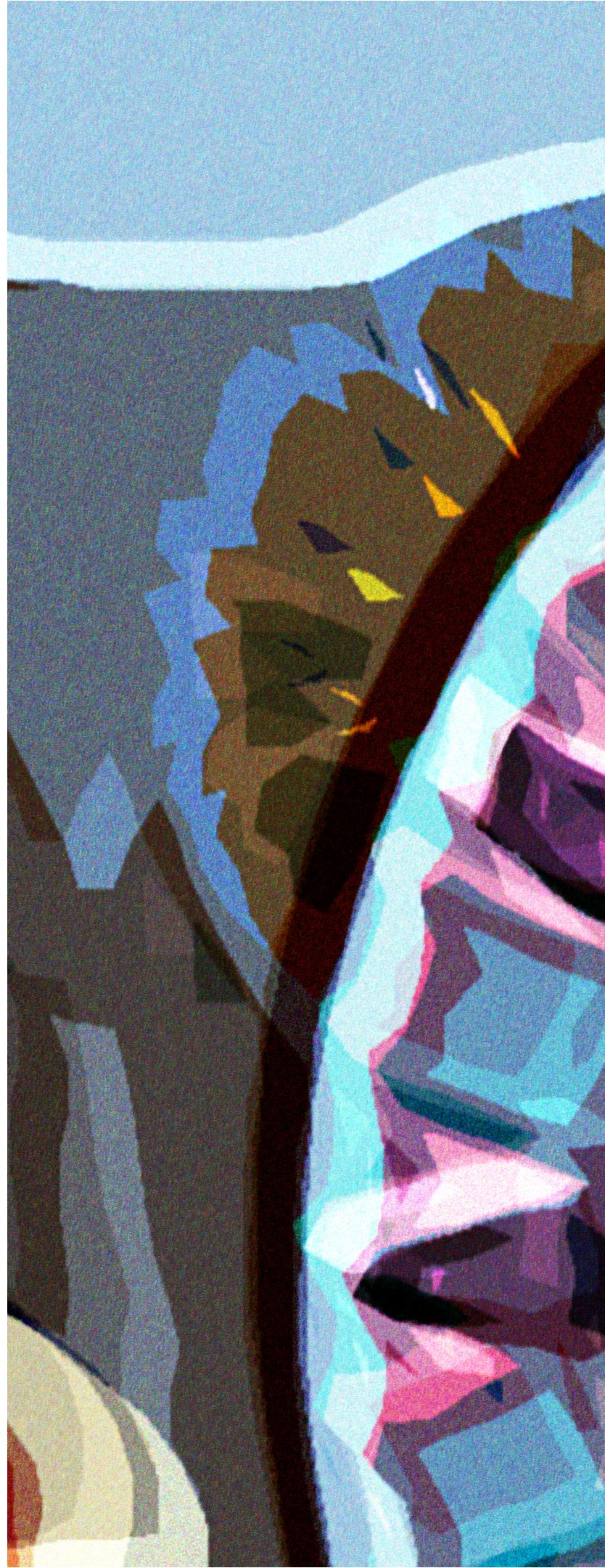
He has collaborated with a population geneticist to explore our ancestral journeys out of Africa 60,000-years ago, with a molecular biologist to synthesize a DNA strand from a sequence 400 museum visitors randomly generated, and with botanists to develop multi-year participatory eco-art efforts to reforest mangroves, native trees and wildflowers across Florida.

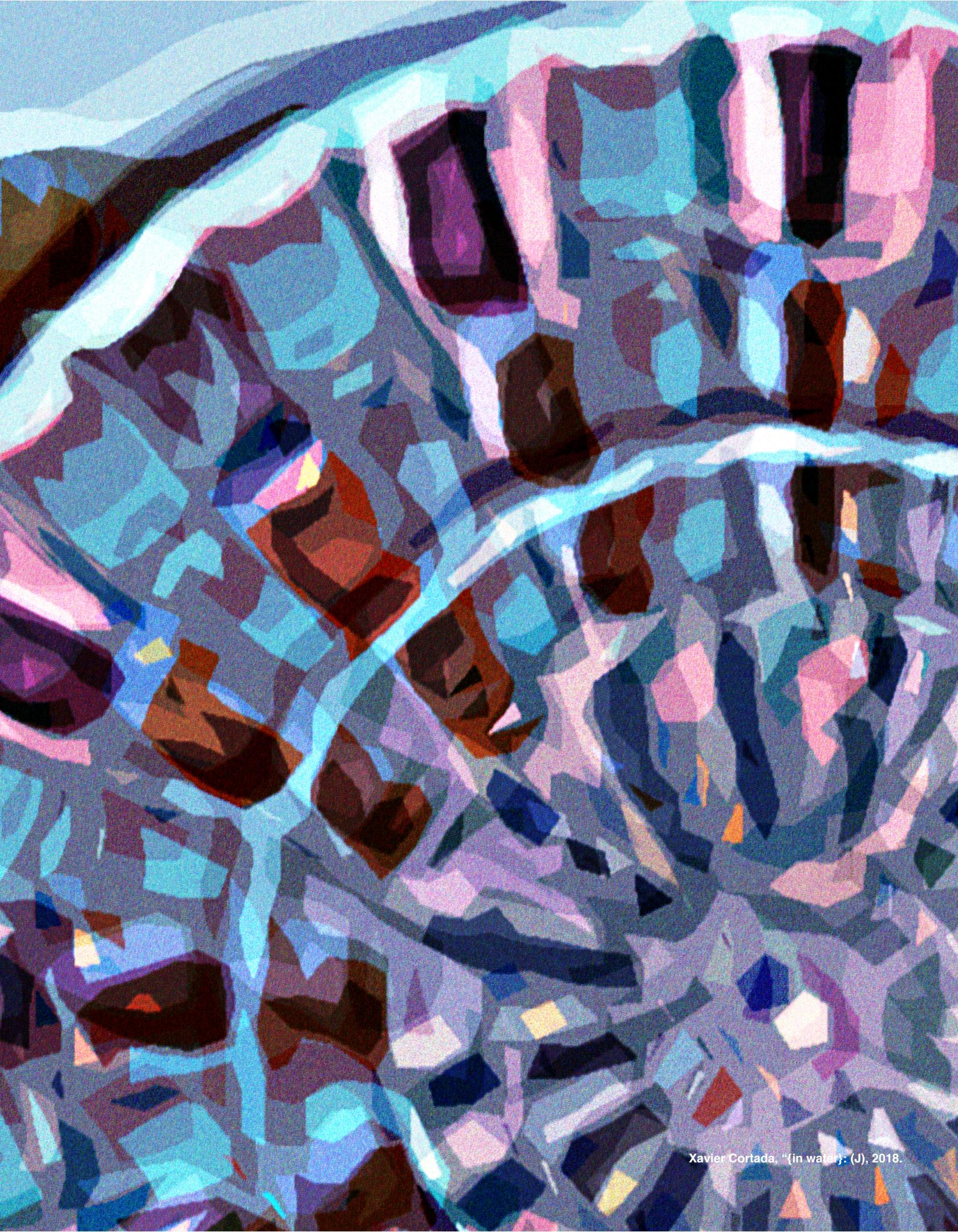
The Miami artist has created environmental installations (North Pole and South Pole) and eco-art (Taiwan, Hawaii and Holland) projects, and painted community murals addressing peace (Cyprus and Northern Ireland), child welfare (Bolivia and Panama), AIDS (Switzerland and South Africa) and juvenile justice (Miami and Philadelphia) concerns.

His work is in the permanent collections of the Perez Art Museum Miami (**PAMM**), the **NSU Museum of Art** in Ft. Lauderdale, the **Whatcom Museum**, and the **Frost Art Museum**.

Cortada's engaged science-art practice is based at **Florida International University** School of Environment, Arts and Society (**SEAS**) and the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (**CARTA**). His studio is located at **Pinecrest Gardens**.

Learn more at [www.cortada.com](http://www.cortada.com).





Xavier Cortada, “{in water}: (J), 2018.

# FLORIDA IS...

## Fins on the Brink: The Vanishing of Elasmobranchs

by Xavier Cortada

Sean Daniels

Michael Gray

Bilgin Kurtoglu

Josh Liberman

Brian Reedy

Gretchen Scharngl

An estimated 100-million sharks are killed each year for their fins. Through photography, painting, and different media, the participating artists aim to diminish the stigma that surrounds these creatures. The group exhibition's work will enrich the audience's appreciation of threatened and endangered Elasmobranchs, including sharks, smalltooth sawfish and rays.

The group show is presented as part of "**Florida is Nature**" is an ongoing art project **Xavier Cortada** established at Pinecrest Gardens to showcase the natural beauty of his home state above and below the water line.

**Hibiscus Gallery** visitors are invited to tour the garden and find inspiration for art they create and upload online. The images and perspectives of participants will be shared on social media to encourage viewers to do their part to understand, protect, and live in-tune with nature.

Monthly Florida is Nature science art talks and community programs are presented by **Florida International University (FIU)** School of Environment, Arts and Society (**SEAS**), FIU College of Communications, Architecture + The Arts (**CARTA**), **FIU Libraries**, Digital Library of the Caribbean (**dLOC**), Participatory Art Projects, Inc. (**PAPI**), **Pinecrest Gardens**, and the **Village of Pinecrest**.

Learn more at [www.floridaisnature.com](http://www.floridaisnature.com)



Brian Reedy, "Sharks and Shipwrecks," linocut, 18" x 12," 2018.



Bilgin Kurtoglu, "Yin and Yang with teeth," acrylic on canvas, 18" x 18" 2018.

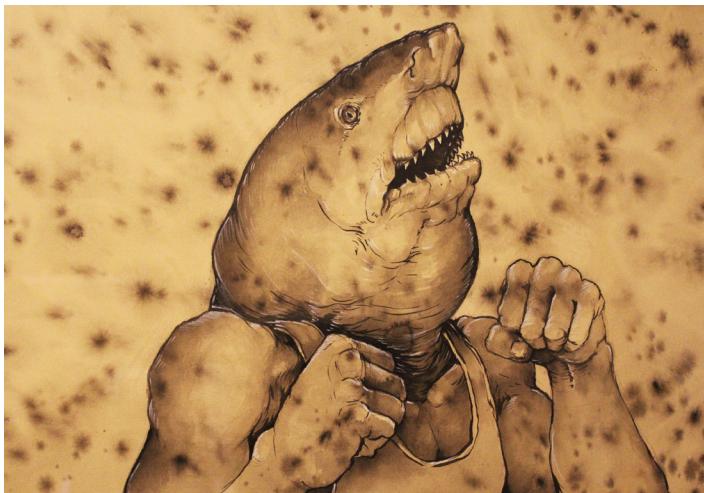
[www.floridaisnature.com](http://www.floridaisnature.com)

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Xavier Cortada. "Sawfish," ceramic, 2013.



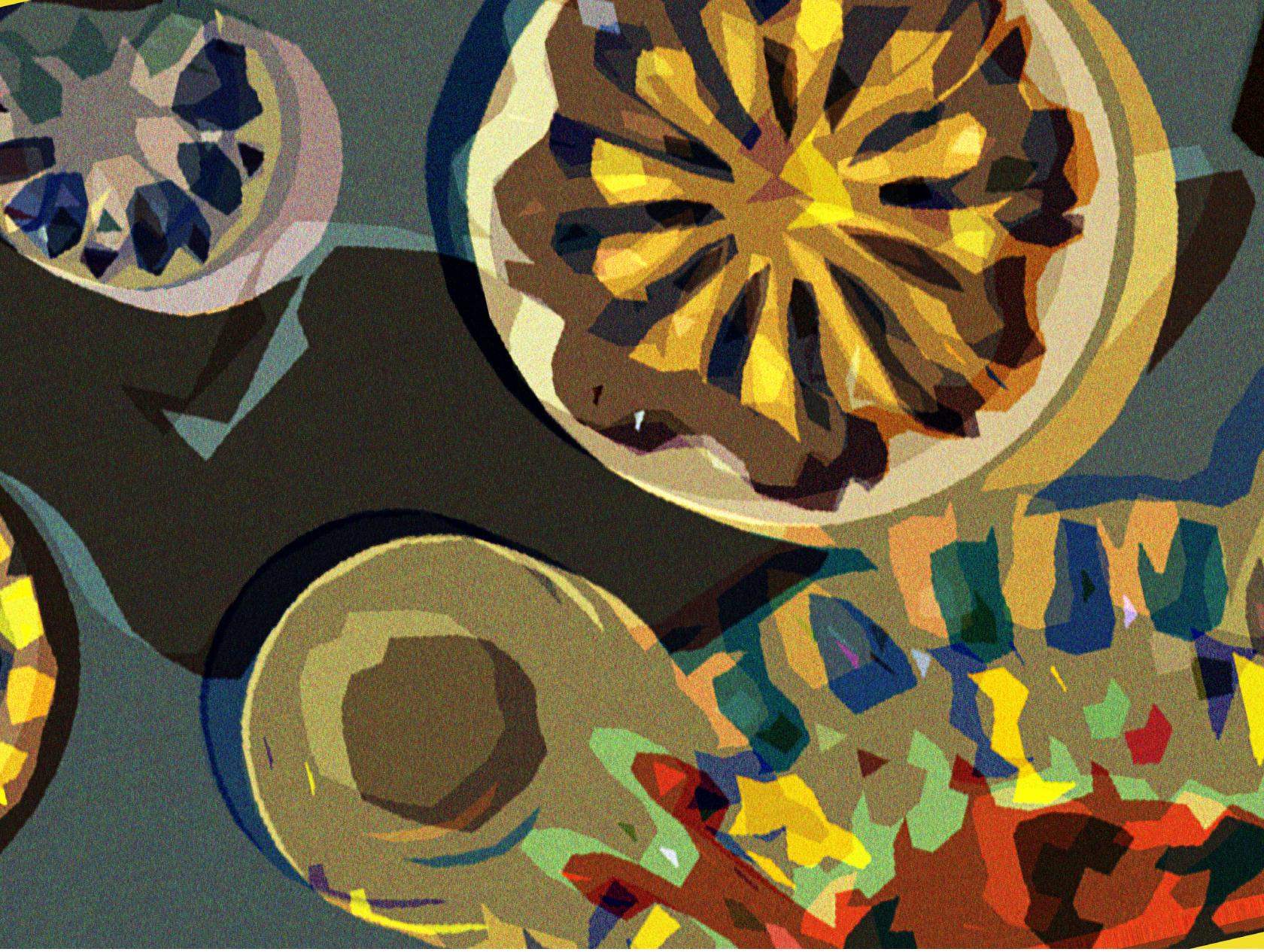
Michael Gray, "C. Leucas," Phylum Floridian Series, acrylic on paper and discarded wood, 17" x 24.5," 2016.



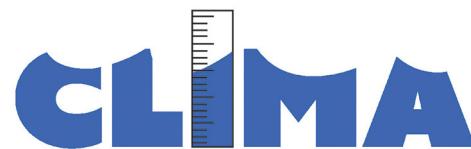
Sean Daniels, "Katherine," 16" x 20", acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas, 2018.



Josh Liberman, "Great Hammerhead," archival ink on paper, 2016.



Xavier Cortada, "{in water}: (P)," 12" x 16", archival ink on paper, signed, numbered, limited edition print / edition of 5, 2018.



CLIMA is a science art platform addressing global climate change and sea level rise. It was developed by Xavier Cortada in 2015 in response to the Paris Climate Talks. CLIMA is presented at Pinecrest Gardens' Hibiscus Gallery in partnership with Florida International University School of Environment, Arts and Society (SEAS), the FIU College of Communications, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA), the FIU Honors College and the FIU Sea Level Solutions Center (SLSC).



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