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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

A Natural History

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Visual Arts

by

Noah Doely

Committee in charge:

Professor Jennifer Pastor, Chair
Professor Andrei Both
Professor Steve Fagin
Professor Ernest Silva

2013

The thesis of Noah Doely is approved and it is acceptable
in quality and form for publication on microfilm and
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Chair

University of California, San Diego

2013

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

A Natural History

by

Noah Doely

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

University of California, San Diego, 2013

Professor Jennifer Pastor, Chair

The exhibition *A Natural History* is comprised of two series of ambrotype and tintype photographs that depict fictional historical figures examining, ordering, and recording their worlds with a variety of different tools. These photographs were built from the ground up, from the construction of props to the staging and photographing of these scenes with nineteenth century technologies. In *A Natural History* a nineteenth century explorer is pictured alongside his collections of objects from the natural world as well as an elaborately constructed portable cabinet of curiosities. The photographs in *The Expanse of a Fact* exhibit the construction and display of a spherical moon sculpture and a diorama of the lunar surface. It visualizes a sequence of actions that mirror the production of the image series, thus producing an origin story about the creation of the work itself.