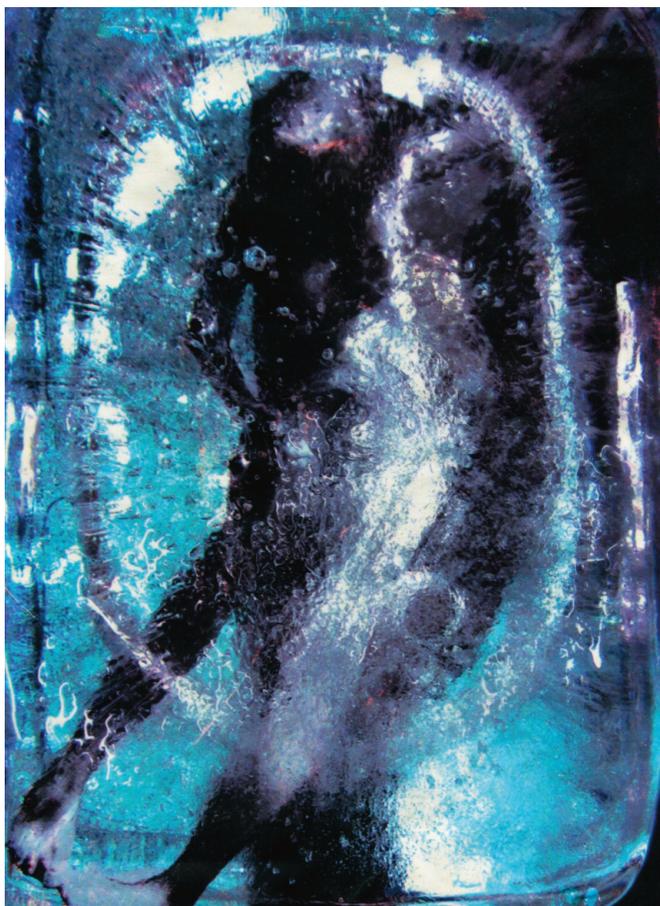




Volume 11
Issue 3
2017

Numb Body

Darian Goldin Stahl



“Numb Body” | Encaustic toner transfer | 20” x 15”

This work concentrates on the complex emotions that accompany a medical diagnosis of chronic illness and the status of our fallible bodies. I am most interested in creating visual metaphors to foster an empathetic exchange with the viewer and those who live with disability or bodily unease. This arts-based research is a collaborative cycle of informing and reconstructing identity with my sister, Devan Stahl, who is a clinical bioethicist at Michigan State University and has multiple sclerosis.

My image making process involves photographing ephemeral sculptures that I create. For “Numb Body,” I have taken a small image of a figure and frozen it within a block of ice. After photographing the sculpture, I translate the image through wax transfer printmaking to create the final print. This process that I have invented involves splitting the photo into color layers and printing them one on top of the other between coatings of wax that bind the toner. The resulting image is bright, dimensional, and rich.

“Numb Body” portrays a figure that is off balance but locked into place, which expresses the intermittent numbness that runs through my sister’s limbs. I aim for viewers to identify with this figure, and come to find that we all carry anxiety about the functionality of our bodies and, more broadly, our mortality. When audiences see my work, even though they do not know my sister, they *feel* her and are filled with a shared, connecting reflection over the state of our ever-failing bodies.

Darian Goldin Stahl
is a Humanities PhD
student at Concordia
University, Montréal
Canada. Email:
dariangoldinstahl
@gmail.com