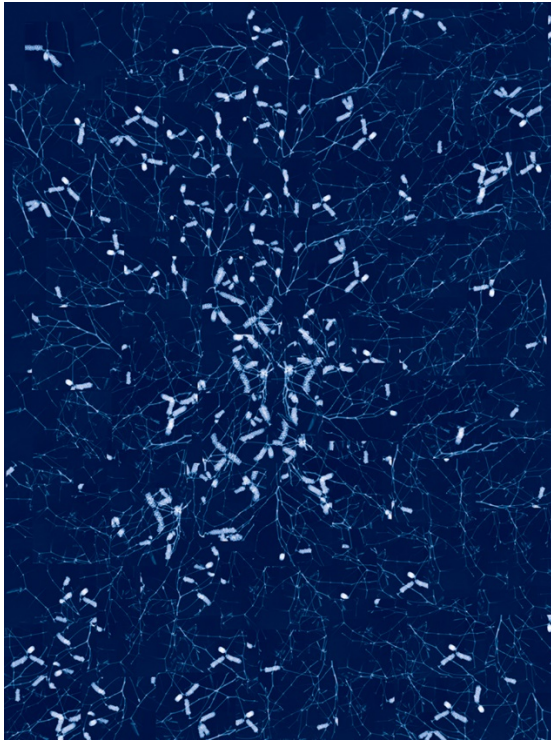


Washington City Paper

Archiving Eden

City Lights Section
May 30, 2019



At the National Academy of Sciences, Phillip K. Smith III abstracts one of his site-specific works, a 2013 installation in the Mojave Desert in which he partially covered a homesteader's shack with mirrors. The original work, featured in his exhibition *From Lucid Stead*, on view to Sept. 13, is smart with crisp reflections of the surrounding scrub in the mirrors contrasting bracingly with the shack's original weathered wood. But most impressive at the National Academy of Sciences is Dornith Doherty's exhibition *Archiving Eden*, an exploration of the little-noticed but vital network of seed banks that harbor crucial agricultural fodder for a rainy (or dry) day. Doherty combines documentary photographs of seed banks in Russia, Brazil, and Norway with artistic contemplations of their contents. She uses a strikingly diverse selection of methods, including X-rays and lenticular photographs, to capture carefully arranged renderings of humble but vital seeds. *The exhibition is on view to July 15 at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave. NW. Free. (202) 334-2415. cpnas.org. (Louis Jacobson)*