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PALMING OFF: The Southern Subject takes Biotech Beach

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

PALMING OFF: The Southern Subject takes Biotech Beach

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

in

Visual Arts

by

Ashley Elizabeth Smith

Committee in charge:

Professor Steve Fagin, Chair
Professor Patrick Anderson
Professor Jordan Crandall
Professor Ricardo Dominguez
Professor Mariana Wardwell

2013

The Thesis of Ashley Elizabeth Smith is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

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Please see Supplemental Files for the *PALMING OFF: The Southern Subject takes Biotech Beach* performing catalogue.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

PALMING OFF: THE SOUTHERN SUBJECT TAKES BIOTECH BEACH

by

Ashley Elizabeth Smith

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

University of California, San Diego 2013

Professor Steve Fagin, Chair

Palming Off is a ficto-critical performing archive of the work of Ashley Elizabeth Smith. In a mode of excess, writing is performed to stun the senses. The notion of the “palm off” is considered through various mythopoetic methods and means.

Situated in the proximity betwixt the sun-worshipped borderlands and an intellectual factory of biotech dreams, the Southern Subject yearns to throw itself, fight the self-absorbed lean, and eat the other before it is eaten. This fever child varietal scours the strip mall and the canyon in search of new myths and if the culture or drugs it’s being served doesn’t cut it, it will surely self-induce the unheimlich maneuver.