

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

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The thesis of Noah Doely is approved and it is acceptable
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Chair

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

A Natural History

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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.