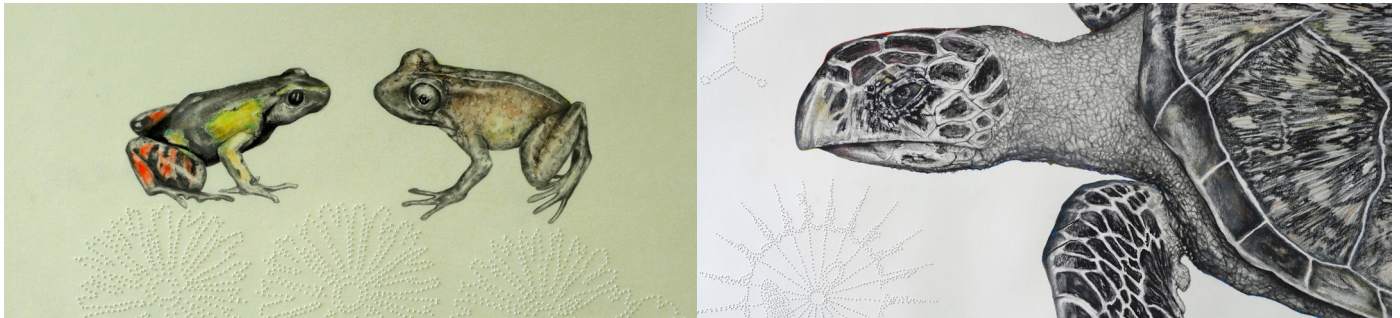


# UNRAVEL

Tanya Chaly

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Curated by Matthew Garrison



The Cluster Gallery is pleased to present its Residency Program Artist Tanya Chaly's Solo Exhibition "**UNRAVEL**", curated by artist and writer Matthew Garrison.

Tanya Chaly makes visible the invisible forces of nature through interventions into her analytical drawings on paper of animals and the ecosystems they inhabit. Her work balances order with disorder, meticulously combining renderings in graphite and charcoal with indications of impending microscopic threats. Often, they take the form of thousands of pinholes depicting the molecular structures and toxins that impact species, and the delicate systems in nature that support them. While some of the most vulnerable of animals might adapt to these environmental pressures, others will mutate or succumb to them. The tension in Chaly's work is apparent in the beauty of her drawing and the innate beauty of the creatures she's drawn, while, simultaneously, acknowledging the possibility of their extinction. Her work and installations are layered with clues to understanding complex issues in science and life. In the process, poignant questions arise surrounding resilience, survival and loss.

In the spirit of scientific inquiry, Chaly's work is grounded in observation and detail. The isolated animals are composed and presented for investigation, hovering in perpetuity, absent of landscape, surrounded solely by the punctured traces of their origins. Paper, the material of textbooks and journals, functions as a means of presentation and a framework for drawings and ideas. Her findings are then evidenced through the traces of research punctured into the surface of the paper, recalling braille or scarification, while referencing an ongoing visual lexicon. However, the beauty of these punctured constellations shifts after learning of the invisible threats they represent in conjunction with the depicted nutrients essential to survival. This tug of war between imperceptible forces is at the heart of Chaly's work, and serves as a warning that the delicate balance between nature and civilization is unraveling.

For instance, Chaly's atmospheric pastel of the Arctic Death Spiral, a scientific chart describing the rapid loss of melting sea ice from 1979 to 2016, connects Chaly's concepts to lands around the globe and exemplifies the urgency in her work. Below the pinhole death spiral, she has scratched into the paper with fluorescent orange ink words from the Roman Philosopher, Cicero, "Non audimus ea quae ab natura monemur." Already, in the first century AD Cicero cautioned, "We do not notice the things that nature warns us about." Chaly's drawings confirm Cicero's observation: in the name of profit, progress and power, warning signs received from the natural universe continue to be discounted, and the potential impact on our planet ignored when a species and its habitat cease to exist.

The exhibition will open on **March 11th, and on view through April 1st, 2017**, with an opening for the public on **Saturday, March 11th , from 7 to 9 pm.**

The **Cluster** Gallery  
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