VIRUTAL ART: MICROSCULPTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

What is Microstructure?

Microstructure is the intricate adaptations of the insect form (body) that is not normally visible to the human eye. The insect world is extraordinarily diverse in size, shape, color, and structural adaptions. The evolutionary process of natural selection should account for all this wonderful diversity of microstructures, but for many species their specific adaptive function is still unknown.

What is Microsculpture?

Microsculpture the Exhibit is a collaborative effort between British photographer Levon Biss and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History designed to create high magnification portraits of insects. The true structure and beauty of insects remains mostly hidden, but are now revealed using the camera lens. The photographer takes around 8,000 individual photographs of each insect to experience insects at their own scale.

Virtual Art Assignment:

1. **Visit the Microsculpture Website below and click on the video link located on the left-hand side of the Home page. Watch the introduction to Microsculpture Project Video. Write down three interesting facts about the Microsculpture Photography of Insects. Share the facts with teacher.**

   Website Link: http://microsculpture.net

2. **Click on the EXPLORE section on the top left-hand side of the Home page. The page will open revealing multiple Microsculpture Photos of Insects. Click on each of the 34 insect photos to explore. Use the ZOOM button on the page to get a super close-up look at the insect microstructures.**
3. **Choose your favorite insect photo. Google the name of the Insect to find out more information. My personal favorite bug name: *Pleasing Fungus Beetle*, *AKA… Brachysphaenus, Coleoptera, Erotylidae*)**
4. **Write down 4 facts about the insect and send them to your teacher.**
5. **Start thinking about ideas for objects at home to photograph super close-up using a cell phone or chrome book camera. Next week we will continue with our micro-photography project.**
6. **Extra Credit: Create a pencil sketch of your favorite insect. Try using colored pencils or markers to add vibrant colors to your insect.**

Fun Fact:

1. **Hair on insects helps them grip smooth surfaces, carry pollen, or detect movements to name a few… the shape of the hairs is sometimes modified into flattened scales they appear like dust to the naked eye. In some insects like butterflies and beetles, the scales scatter and reflect light causing some of the most vibrant colors in nature**