

jan smith | samaná



**E**laeisis guineensis. Alive, I never paid them heed, but dead, they command attention. Oil palms.

On the new road from Santo Domingo to Samaná there is particular stretch with many miles of oil palm plantations on each side of the highway. Within this corridor there is a smaller section, itself quite large, of nothing but dead oil palms. The cause of such abundant death haunted me.

When they grow beyond a certain age, oil palms become less fertile and provide fewer nuts. At that time they are culled, to make way for a new generation of saplings. This I learned later.



I imagine there are many options to culling acres of trees. Sawing them would be a rapid death. But of all the ways to die, the thirst of a tree, is the slowest. Rather than cutting them, they are denied water and fed chemicals to dry them.

There is a solemn beauty in their death. Lined, so uniformly, they resemble battle-tired armies more than trees. Occasionally I saw one that lived apart but died as a maiden, hero, or trickster. A select few are witnesses to a solemn coronation.



They die in a barren state but a haggard dignity is common to them; as if they found glory in defeat.





**Eleasis 1 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 2 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010





**Eleasis 3 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 4 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 5 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010





**Eleasis 6 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 7 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 8 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 9 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010





**Eleasis 10 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010





**Eleasis 11 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 12 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 13 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 14 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010





**Eleasis 15 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010





**Eleasis 16 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 17 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 18 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



**Eleasis 19 - Samaná** Samaná, Dominican Republic, 2010



## ↳ On Paper

### ↳ Production

Negatives: 35mm DSLR infrared

Medium: Archival ink jet on cotton or luster paper

### ↳ Dimensions

This collection is available as a complete set or individually

Complete Set: 8x8 inches /20x20cm each image

Individual Images: 16x16 inches /41x41cm

### ↳ Signature

All images are signed in back with carbon pencil.

### ↳ Edition

5 complete sets

3 individual copies of each image







## ↳ Individual Shows

2010

- Pop. Density, Galería Epon México D.F.
- Nouadhibou, Galería Mesa Fine Art, Dominican Republic
- Pop. Density, Espacio AF Polanco, México D.F.
- Ausencia y Abandono, Galería Eduardo Fernandes, São Paulo
- Gunkanjima, Patio de la Fototeca, Zacatecas, México.
- Gunkanjima, Galería Bateau Mouche, Toluca, México.
- Gunkanjima, Galería Ibero, Puebla, México.

2009

- Gunkanjima, Espacio Cultural Japón, México D.F.
- Pop. Density, Galería Nina Menocal, México D.F.
- Nouadhibou, Galería Conejo Blanco, Mexico D.F.

2008

- Nouadhibou, Galería Piso 51, México D.F.

2007

- Ausencia y Abandono, Galería Uno, México D.F.

## ↳ Group Shows

2010

- Casa Francia, México D.F.
- Mexico Vivo, Museo Arte Moderno, México D.F.
- SP-Arte, São Paulo
- Galería Conejo Blanco, México D.F.
- Galería Epon México D.F.

2009

- Burn Gallery, New York
- Sema Topaloglu Studio, Istanbul
- Espace Dupon, Paris

2008

- Casa Cor, São Paulo
- Atelier Art Gallery, Miami

2005

- Club Fotográfico Mexicano, México D.F.

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To learn where you may see Jan's work personally, or if you are interested in bringing Samaná as an exhibition to your community, please contact:

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