

SEAN VRANIZAN lit an internet fuse with his photographic scanner art. Based on his recurring dreams, these unsettling artworks make use of bullets, bones and other unexpected objects. Some are very unexpected.

## CORKSCREW, GREEN GRASS, SEASHELLS, MOLARS

By Katya Tylevich

— *Whose teeth are those? [I point to a bag of human teeth on Vranizan's desk.]* Oh, those are mine. I came back home from college and was looking for things to scan. I found these teeth in my room and thought they would be great to use in an artwork. I used them for this one. [He shows me a scan composed of a classic corkscrew, green grass, seashells and some molars.]

— *These scanned collages are popping up everywhere online.* You know, it's been an interesting couple of weeks. I'll admit, not that many people email me. But since I was featured on Fecal Face [www.fecalface.com], I've been receiving an incredible amount of emails and interest.

— *But you remain a mystery. All I know about you is that you were a student at Santa Cruz.* I was born and raised here in San Francisco. Two brothers, a mom, a dad and a dog. I just graduated this past spring from UC Santa Cruz, then went to Yosemite for ten weeks to teach arts and crafts to kids at a summer camp. After that, I moved back to San Francisco. Now, the goal is to figure out how I can sustain my art outside of school. I'm a photographer for this company called Fashionphile. They sell designer handbags, so I photograph all of their bags for their online content and do their editing. I also have a painting internship with a muralist named Sirron Norris. I've started teaching an after-school art class for highschoolers at Wallenberg High. Outside of that, I've been freelancing and figuring out how I can make a living doing what I love to do.

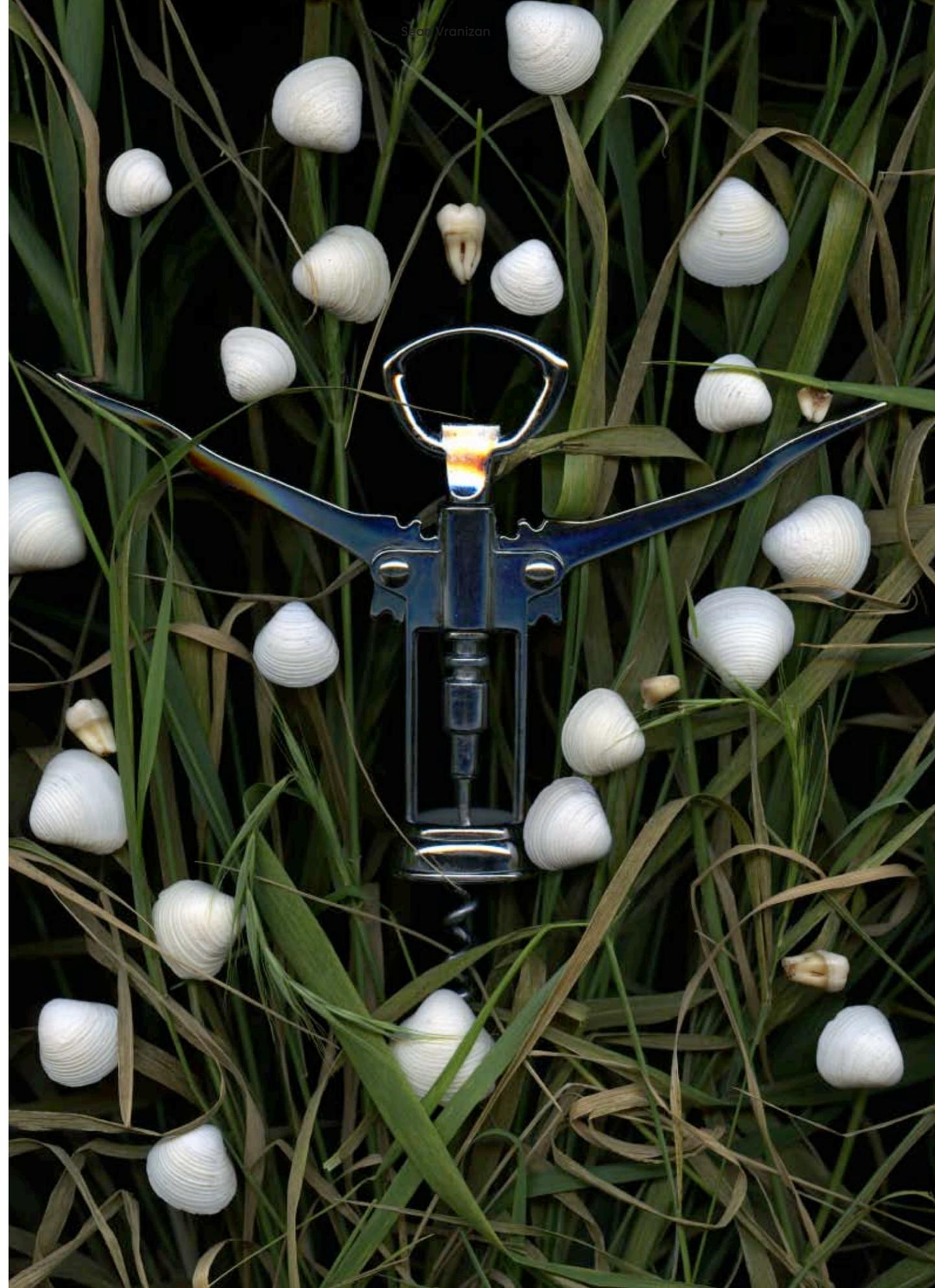
— *Were you immersed in art growing up?* I've always done art. It's always been ingrained into my lifestyle. I thought about being a film major, but the programme at Santa Cruz is very analytical and paper-based. I wanted to get my hands dirty. Art has always been my gateway into understanding the world and expressing myself. I've made a commitment to dedicate my life to it.

— *Most of the attention you've been getting is for the scanner work.* That's funny because I do

paint, and I do draw. I do all these other things. Of course, something like painting is so time-consuming; it's a commitment to a relationship that's always changing. Whereas these scanner pieces, they happen almost instantly. I wonder if that has anything to do with all the attention they're getting? I don't use any glue for those images, just two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects. I'm creating a sort of two-and-a-half dimension with those works. I also like the fact that I can reuse various objects.

— *What do you mean they happen instantly? Are they spontaneous works? Do you plan ahead?* For this particular series, all of the imagery corresponds to recurring dreams I have. At the time I was working on these, I was having particularly obscure dreams about murder and violence and joy and freedom. I'd write these dreams down in my notebook and, from that, I would look at the objects around me and see what would gravitate towards me as an expression of that dream. So, for example, one scanner piece is based on a dream where I had killed someone and felt an extreme sense of guilt. Of course, in a dream, your notions of what's reality and what's not are totally thrown off. So I incorporated elements like bullets and matches to tailor to that idea. But even though the scanner pieces are all based on certain thoughts and dreams, I think they're also ambiguous. I love hearing what people have to say about these works. I think they speak to people because of the everyday objects in them, which are assembled in surprising ways.

— *You said you still paint and draw. Do you see yourself moving more towards 'digital' work?* I don't think so. For the amount of digital stuff I do, I try to do an equivalent amount of analogue work, with my hands. It's hard to withstand sitting in front of a computer all day, and what you get from it doesn't have the same tangibility as something you have made with your hands. I think that drawing and printmaking are much more spiritual experiences: it's about working with your hands and your mind to create a new reality.



Untitled 2 (from Scanner Series), 2011, scanned image

Untitled 5 (from Scanner Series), 2011, scanned image



Untitled 10 (from Scanner Series), 2011, scanned image