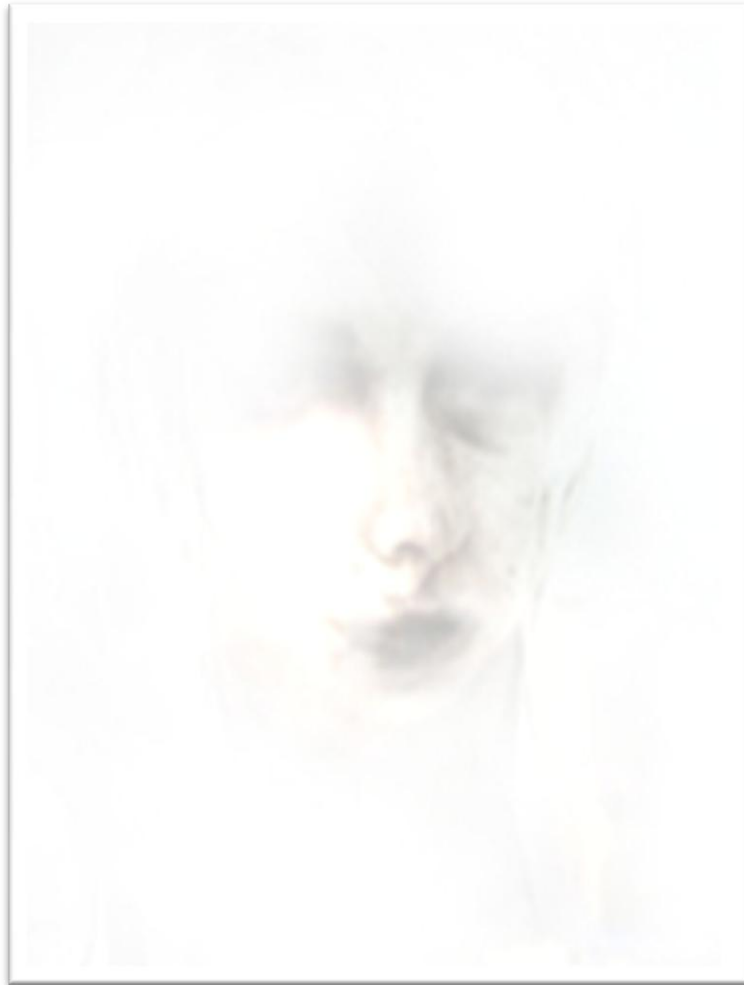


Megan Botha
Human Becoming
2011

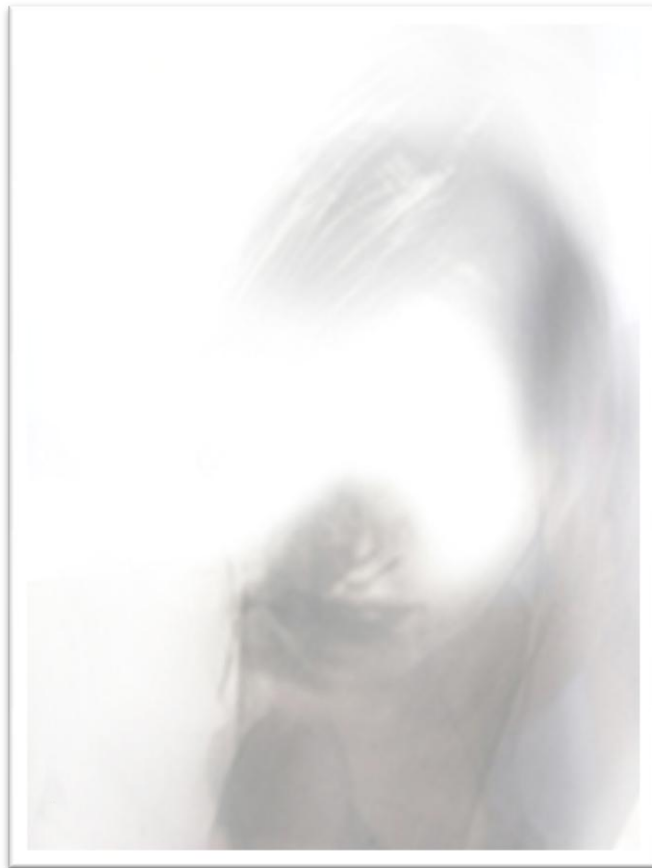
Poetry/titles by Gillian K. Ferguson

Human Becoming



1. *Flesh and green
Elegies of death
Wearing her soul
which is cold as light
As insect and ice
wear exoskeleton*

(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



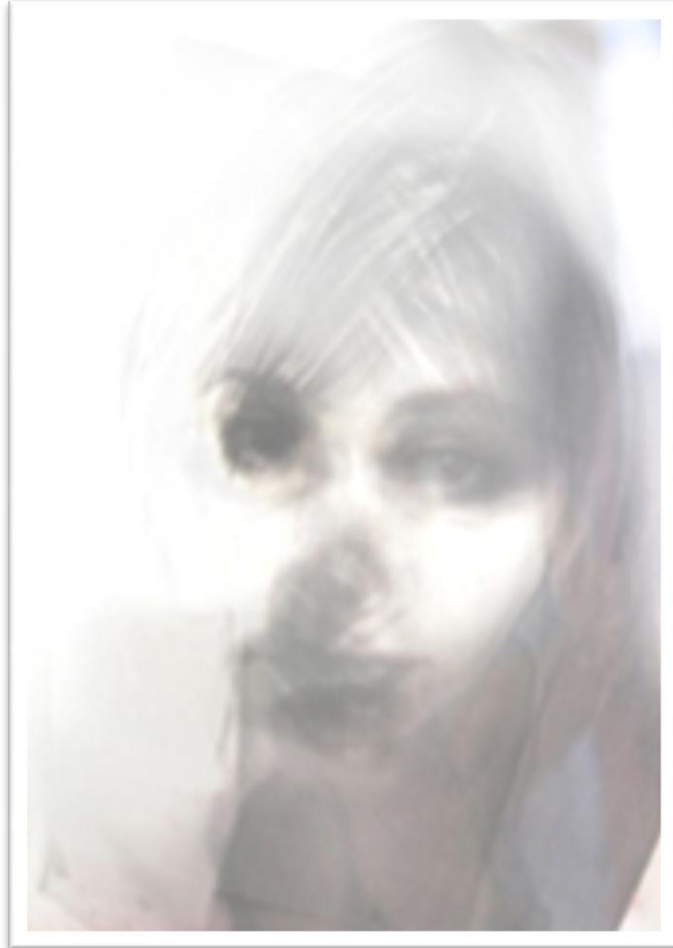
2. *Her lonely species
of light-honed so cool
Austere, holy, pure; turned
madly bright with loneliness*

(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



3. *I felt them*
The possible children waiting
with grandparents ghosts in their skin
- as I have seen them looking sometimes*
through their faces, printed in their eyes

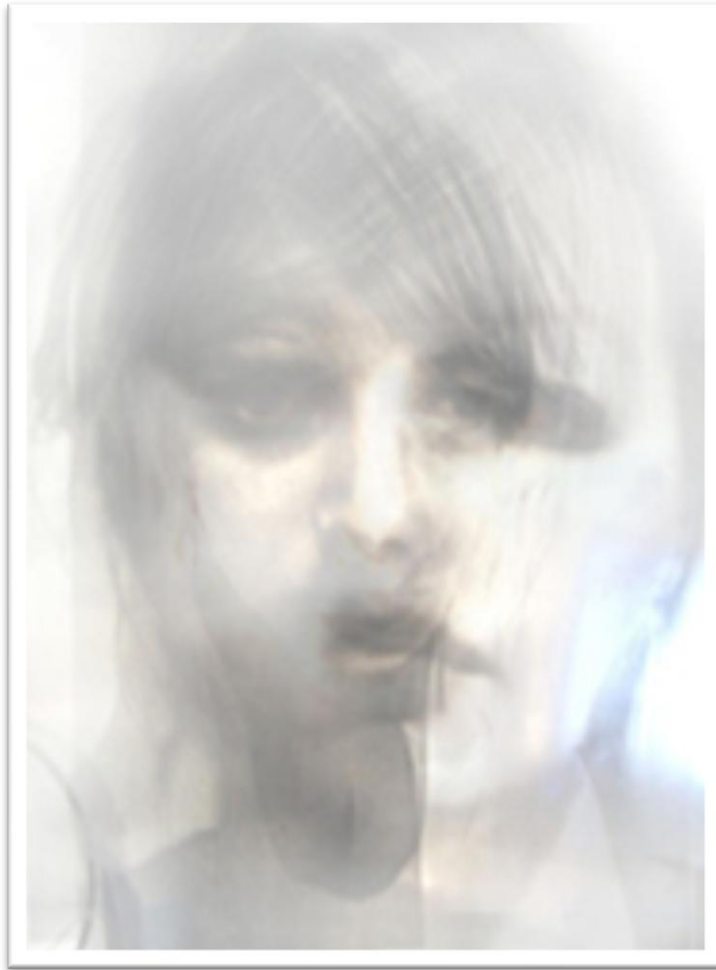
(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



4. *Grace*
I cupped the word in both palms
Holding its calm golden light
Like a dying September leaf-

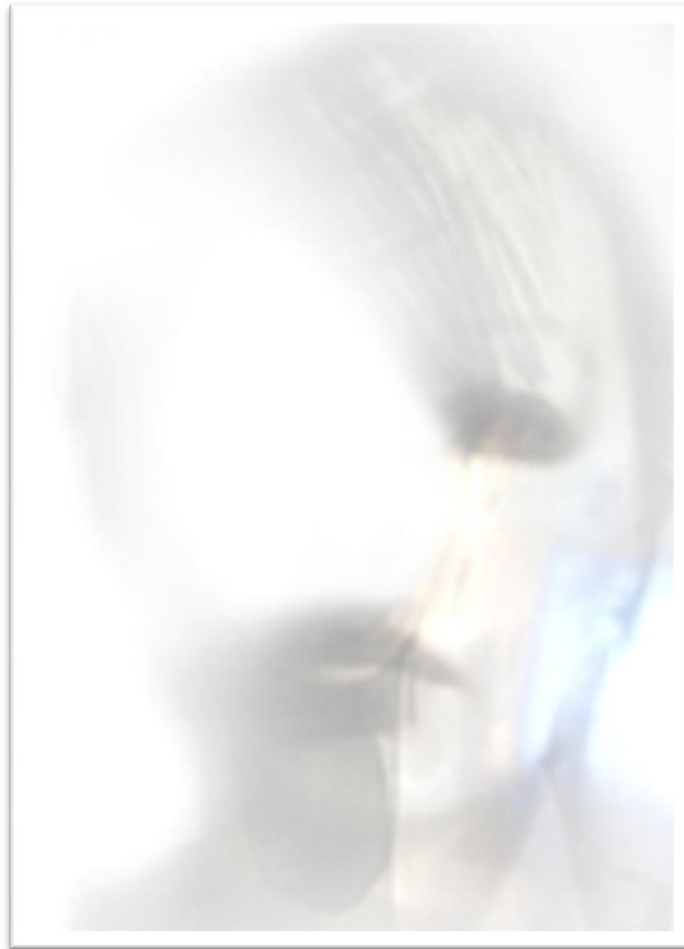
Dusted it down tenderly
Polishing the word with my lips
Slotting it home in my heart

(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



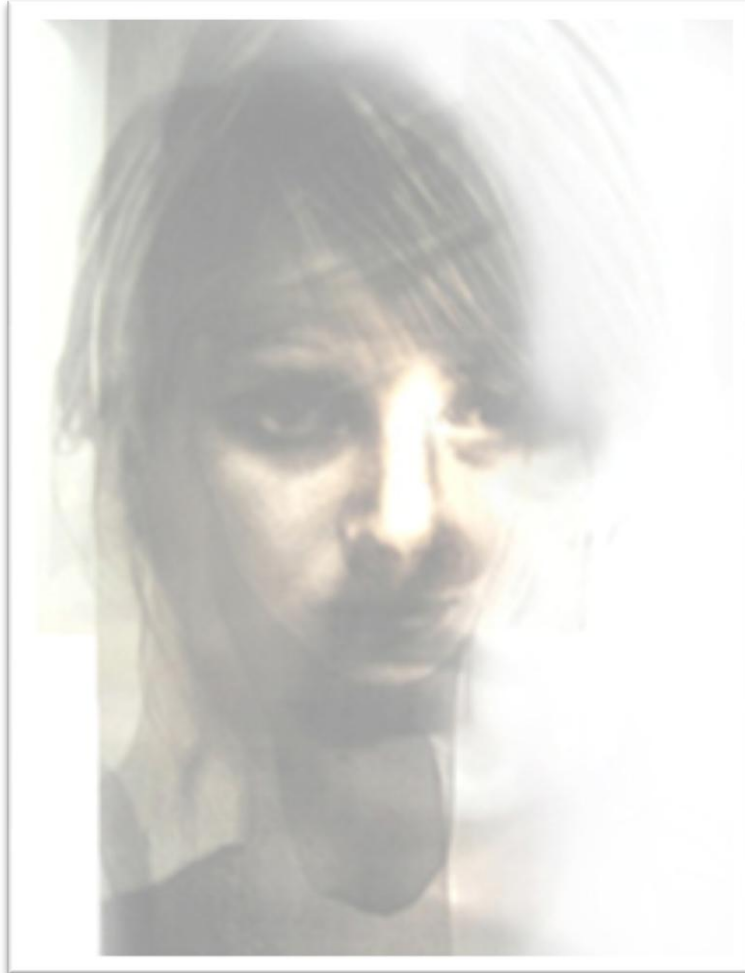
5. *...her travelling heart
of music; long humming conundrums
of identity-signature impermanence
Smudging milk-blue air with luminosity*

(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



6. *In the beginning is the word
Which will write-it knows-
Language of skin and bone
Shining eye letters, red heart
Making vehicles of love
with gorgeous chemistry
Embroidering life's poetry
In the ear of the universe*

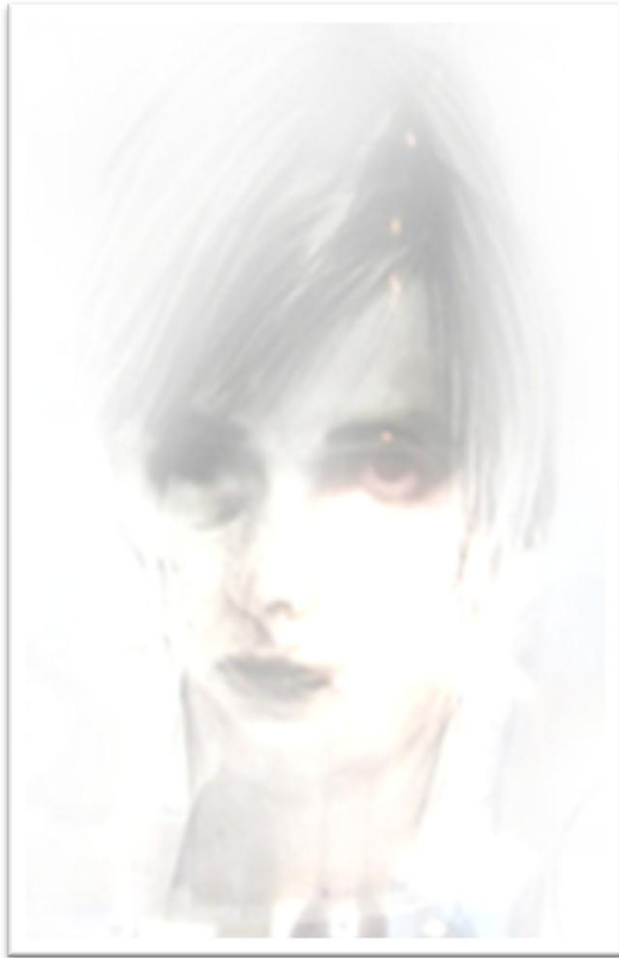
(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



7. *too lurid without leaf body-
silver palm, white sun-blood;*

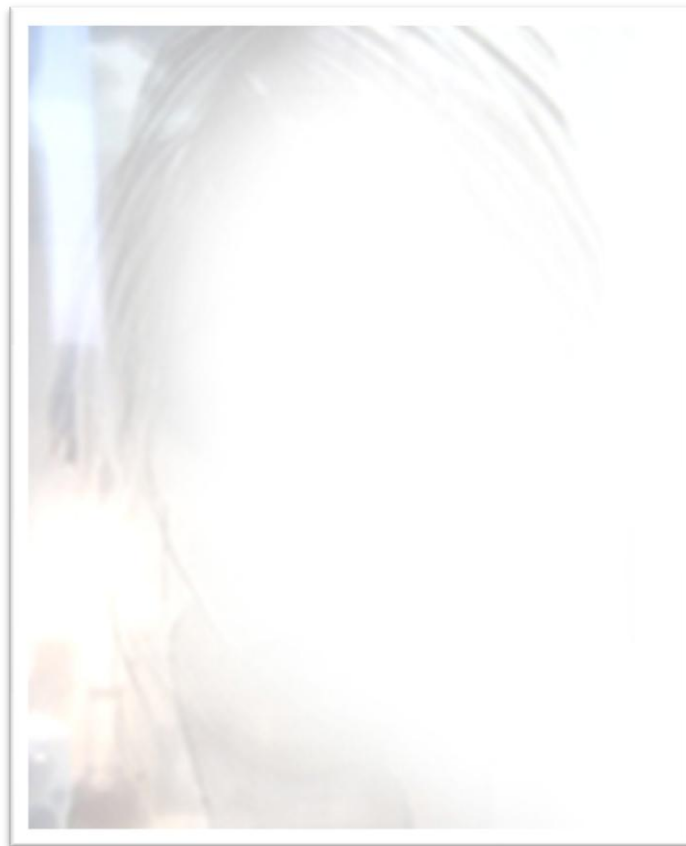
*light fingers-like angle claws-
scratch through the malevolent blue*

(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



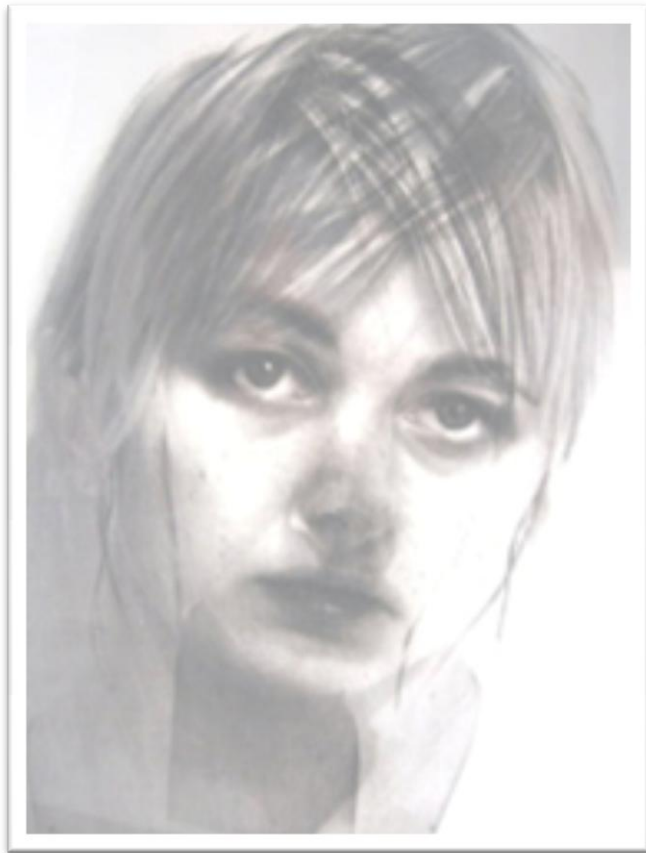
8. *turning warm red
as animal blood*

(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



9. *everything alive,
from the same trinity of letters,
this simple holy script,
so shining still, no wonder it is holy;
under time-embroidered cobwebs,
silver yet, though dimmed with age-*

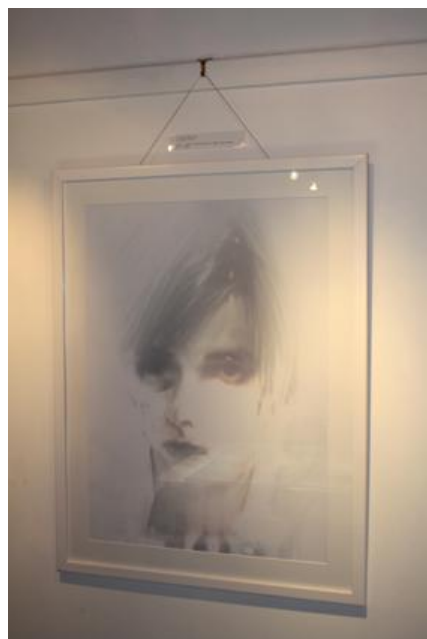
(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper



10. *Sky is reading my heart and eyes-
Translating, replicating, mimicking;
Suddenly watering the redundant wormy
rose with enormous, sluggish silver tears
that burst out intemperately
like heavenly blood-letting*

(2009). Digital photography on Hahnemuhle paper

Final Year exhibition



Artist Statement

This body of work is entitled Human Becoming. It consists of ten digital photographic images. These images are the result of layered and reworked family portraits of three generations. Features from different family members were carefully selected and manipulated to create a new portrait, photographed, printed on transparency paper, layered and photographed with different light settings from behind. This caused the images to portray colours of bruising which links to the theme. The images were then layered and photographed again. This process is repeated. Information (genetic heritage) has been added and taken away with great precision, making the medium a metaphor for the works of art. *Discovering the Beauty and Terror of Science in the Age of Wonder* by Richard Holmes accurately describes what has happened here. In an almost Frankenstein way, as if by candlelight, these beautiful monsters were created, using the delicate language of the human genome. These images are portrayed as monsters lamenting loneliness in poignantly poetic language. The poetry of Gillian K Ferguson from the volume; *The Human Genome: Poems on the Book of Life* were used as titles and underwriting for these images.