

**LIGHT OF REASON AND DEAD BUTTERFLIES**

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The original of the complete thesis is on file  
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## **ABSTRACT**

*Light of Reason and Dead Butterflies* is an ongoing research project which attempts to demonstrate the role of analogical interpretation in the choice making processes of scientific investigation. Seeing a given thing as another allows for explanatory simplification - in which the simplicity of explanatory elements is the measure for successful reduction. This idea is based on the understanding that standardized research methods in the natural sciences are ultimately a strategic storytelling device, sustained and promoted through publication and peer review.

This project can be best described as working with a lively and dynamic material, by means of capturing or immobilizing certain aspects of change through adjustment of arbitrary procedures. Although this practice has more freedom to be speculative rather than predictive, it is still bound by countless rules to keep the work completely or partially alive. Meanwhile, many decisions that were made within these rules are highly spontaneous, in which intuitive and imaginative measures are not completely left out.

The photo documentations show an array of performances done at a biology research lab, in which the artist is trained to function as a histologist and imaging technician, producing quantitative data for analysis and publication. The artist and her scientist collaborators have actively worked out a mutual agreement so that the artist is able to freely utilize the lab environment and produced data.