

Pasatiempo

SITE REOPENS

Bugging out: Regina Silveira

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Regina Silveira: *Mundus Admirabilis*, installation view, 2007; photo Gabriela Campos/*The New Mexican*

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For *Mundus Admirabilis*, Regina Silveira's contribution to SITE Santa Fe's *Future Shock*, the Brazilian artist adorned the exterior walls and courtyard of the newly remodeled space with dozens of large black vinyl adhesive insects. Butterflies, grasshoppers, dragonflies, and beetles — some as big as killer whales — act as wonderfully weird wallpaper, where their hyperrealistic silhouettes will be on view for several months before they alight on their next destination.

Like many of *Future Shock*'s exhibitors, Silveira works in many disciplines. In addition to digital-image and video-projection installations, Silveira has made sculpture, holography, porcelain, magnificently drawn M.C. Escher-esque geometrical works on paper, and even virtual reality projects. In works like 2005's *Intro*, the artist employed the same black vinyl adhesive she used for *Mundus Admirabilis*, covering the walls, floors, windows, and even the thermostat of a Brussels museum with thousands of black adhesive vinyl footprints, transforming a regular-looking building into something utterly unexpected.

For *Mundus Admirabilis*, the artist was inspired by meticulous renderings of insects in pre-photographic natural history publications. The work was originally exhibited in 2007 as part of *Garden of Power*, an installation in Brasilia, Brazil. Later, it traveled to São Paulo — where the artist lives and works — and Poland. In a statement on Silveira's website, she described her motivations for *Mundus Admirabilis* as follows: "The revisited pests would be nonlinear metaphors of the much more furious pests that now plague us globally on several fronts: social, environmental, cultural and 'civilizing,' threatening a future that seems more and more infeasible." The piece may reference dark themes — for example, biblical plagues, of which *Mundus Admirabilis* would be one of especially epic proportions — but they don't take away from the sheer delight of the work, so bug-fearers need not worry. Silveira's magnificent black vinyl creatures inspire awe and delight; they're engrossing, not gross.