

Guide to the Auto Immune Response

WA Photos Folio 220



by Matthew Daniel Mason

November 2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA Photos Folio 220

CREATOR: Wilson, Will, 1969- , photographer

TITLE: Auto Immune Response

DATES: 2004-2021

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 10 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Inkjet prints of photographic images created by Will Wilson for his series, *Auto Immune Response* (AIR), 2004-2021. In an artist's statement for the series, Wilson writes that it "takes as its subject the quixotic relationship between a post-apocalyptic Diné (Navajo) man and the devastatingly beautiful, but toxic environment he inhabits," and that "the series is an allegorical investigation of the extraordinarily rapid transformation of Indigenous lifeways, the dis-ease it has caused, and strategies of response that enable cultural survival." Through metaphorical self-portraits created using terrestrial and aerial photography, Wilson envisages a post-apocalyptic future where a Diné man known only as "the protagonist" is a survivor and the viewer follows the figure as they wander through landscapes of detritus and decay.

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To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Will Wilson on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2021.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Auto Immune Response is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Will Wilson, *Auto Immune Response*. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, as well as more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This guide derives from a detailed examination of each print. Titles transcribed from inscriptions on prints and corrected in notes when necessary. Dates in the collection reflect the date of image capture.

Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

Will Wilson (born 1969)

Will Wilson is a Diné photographer. He studied photography at Oberlin College (Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art and Art History, 1993) and the University of New Mexico (Master of Fine Arts in Photography, 2002). Since 2014, Wilson has supervised the photography program in the School of Arts, Design and Media Arts at Santa Fe Community College, New Mexico.

Content Description

Inkjet prints of photographic images created by Will Wilson for his series, *Auto Immune Response* (AIR), 2004-2021.

In an artist's statement for the series, Wilson writes that it "takes as its subject the quixotic relationship between a post-apocalyptic Diné (Navajo) man and the devastatingly beautiful, but toxic environment he inhabits," and that "the series is an allegorical investigation of the extraordinarily rapid transformation of Indigenous lifeways, the dis-ease it has caused, and strategies of response that enable cultural survival." Through metaphorical self-portraits created using terrestrial and aerial photography, Wilson envisages a post-apocalyptic future where a Diné man known only as "the protagonist" is a survivor and the viewer follows the figure as they wander through landscapes of detritus and decay.

Locations for the images are chiefly at Dinétah (Diné for "among the people), the ancestral homelands of the Diné at northwestern New Mexico, southwestern Colorado, southeastern Utah, and northeastern Arizona, as well as the Navajo Indian Reservation within it.

Sites identified in the images include the Cholla Power Plant near Joseph City, Arizona; the disposal site for radioactive tailings related to copper and uranium mining near Mexican Hat, Utah, and managed by the United States Department of Energy; hydraulic fracking operations at Aneth, Utah; and the White Mesa Uranium Mill operated by Energy Fuels at White Mesa, Utah.

Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on versos. Inscriptions on versos of many prints provide contextual information about the images.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically and then alphabetically by title.

Collection Contents

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1	Auto Immune Response No. 1 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 18 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2004
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 2	Auto Immune Response No. 2 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 31 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2004
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 3	Auto Immune Response No. 3 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 25 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2004
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 4	Auto Immune Response No. 4 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 30 x 51 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2004
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 5	Auto Immune Response No. 5 <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 18 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2004
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 6	Auto Immune Response No. 6 <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 23 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2004
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 7	Auto Immune Response No. 7 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 33 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2004
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 8	Auto Immune Response No. 8 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 37 x 42 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2008
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 9	Auto Immune Response No. 9 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 24 x 48 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2008
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 10	Auto Immune Response No. 10 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 17 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2009

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 11	Auto Immune Response No. 11 <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 18 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2008
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 12	How the West is One <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 38 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2012
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 13	Auto Immune Response Rio Grande Downriver from Los Alamos National Labs: On the Consideration of Invasive Species, Digitype Triptych <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 20 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2014
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 14	Auto Immune Response Rio Grande Downriver from Los Alamos National Labs: On the Consideration of Invasive Species, Left Panel of a Digitype Triptych <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 55 x 37 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2014
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 15	Auto Immune Response Rio Grande Downriver from Los Alamos National Labs: On the Consideration of Invasive Species, Center Panel of a Digitype Triptych <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 55 x 43 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2014
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 16	Auto Immune Response Rio Grande Downriver from Los Alamos National Labs: On the Consideration of Invasive Species, Right Panel of a Digitype Triptych <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 55 x 37 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2014
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 17	Auto Immune Response Rio Grande Downriver from Los Alamos National Labs: On the Consideration of Invasive Species, Study <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 32 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2014
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 18	Auto Immune Response Cholla Power Plant <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 16 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2015
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 19	Auto Immune Response Cholla Power Plant, Diptych, Left Panel <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 32 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2015
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 20	Auto Immune Response Cholla Power Plant, Diptych, Right Panel <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 31 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2015

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 21	Auto Immune Response, Virtual Reality, Amerind Institute, Dragoon, Arizona <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 24 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2015
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 22	Auto Immune Response, Virtual Reality II <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 28 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2015
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 23	Production Still for the Making of "Auto Immune Response: Confluence of Three Generations" <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 35 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso as well as contextual information about the image	2015
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 24	Auto Immune Response Confluence of 3 Generations <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 26 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso as well as contextual information about the image	2015
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 25	Auto Immune Response Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Study <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 18 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 26	Auto Immune Response, Drone Murmur, Fracking Drill Rig, Aneth, Utah <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 27 x 52 cm, on sheet, 39 x 57 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 27	Auto Immune Response, Fracking Drill Rig (Study), Aneth, Utah <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 43 x 41 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 28	Auto Immune Response, Little Colorado River Gorge, Detail, Western Navajo Agency, Navajo Nation <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 41 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 29	Auto Immune Response, Little Colorado River Gorge, Western Navajo Agency, Navajo Nation <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 27 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 30	Energy Fuels, White Mesa Uranium Mill, Vertical Panorama, White Mesa, Utah <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 46 x 41 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 31	Energy Fuels, White Mesa Uranium Mill, Waste Pits and Tailing Piles, White Mesa, Utah <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 35 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 32	Energy Fuels, White Mesa Uranium Mill, Waste Pits with Yellow Cake, White Mesa, Utah <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 29 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 33	Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Halchita, Utah, Navajo Nation, Digitype <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 12 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 34	Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Halchita, Utah, Navajo Nation, Digitype, Diptych, Left Panel <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 24 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 35	Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Halchita, Utah, Navajo Nation, Digitype, Diptych, Right Panel <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 24 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 36	Skull Tank, Bloomfield, New Mexico <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 26 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 37	Skull Tank, Bloomfield, New Mexico <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 26 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 38	Auto Immune Response Aspen Vista Trail, Santa Fe National Forest <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 18 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 39	Auto Immune Response Chacoan Outpost <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 45 x 41 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 40	Auto Immune Response Chacoan Outpost, Panorama <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 22 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 41	Auto Immune Response Survey 1, Digitype, Valley of the Gods, Utah, Dinétah <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 27 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 42	Auto Immune Response Survey 1, Study, Valley of the Gods, Utah, Dinétah <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 26 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020

b. 4 (Oversize), f. 43	Auto Immune Response Valley of the Gods, Dinétah, Digitype, Triptych <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 25 x 56 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 44	Auto Immune Response Valley of the Gods, Dinétah, Digitype, Triptych, Center Panel <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 50 x 40 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 45	Auto Immune Response Valley of the Gods, Dinétah, Digitype, Triptych, Left Panel <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 50 x 40 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 46	Auto Immune Response Valley of the Gods, Dinétah, Digitype, Triptych, Right Panel <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 50 x 40 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 47	Auto Immune Response, Unit Photograph 1 <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 36 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 48	Auto Immune Response, Unit Photograph 2 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 36 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso Arranged alphabetically.	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 49	Production Still of Camp Tintype at Valley of the Gods, Utah, Dinétah <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 24 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020
b. 5 (Oversize), f. 50	Arizona Public Services Four Corners Coal Fired Power Plant, Detail, Water Flow, New Mexico, Navajo Nation <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 29 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2021
b. 5 (Oversize), f. 51	Arizona Public Services Four Corners Coal Power Plant (Coal-fired) across Morgan Lake, Water Flow, New Mexico, Navajo Nation <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 28 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2021
b. 5 (Oversize), f. 52	Navajo Tribal Utility Authority 55 Megawatt Solar Power Plant, Kayenta, Arizona, Navajo Nation, View 1 <i>1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 20 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2021
b. 5 (Oversize), f. 53	Navajo Tribal Utility Authority 55 Megawatt Solar Power Plant, Kayenta, Arizona, Navajo Nation, View 2 <i>1 inkjet jet print, color image, 20 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm</i> Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2021

- b. 5 (Oversize), f. [Navajo Tribal Utility Authority 55 Megawatt Solar Power Plant, Kayenta, Arizona, Navajo Nation, View 3](#) 2021
54
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 20 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
Titled and signed by the photographer on the verso
-
- b. 5 (Oversize), f. [Navajo Tribal Utility Authority 55 Megawatt Solar Power Plant, Kayenta, Arizona, Navajo Nation, View 3](#) 2021
55
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 20 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image
-
- b. 5 (Oversize), f. [Peabody Energy Coal Strip Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico](#) 2021
56
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 27 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso
-
- b. 5 (Oversize), f. [Peabody Energy Coal Strip Mine, Salvage Yard, McKinley County, New Mexico](#) 2021
57
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 27 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso
-

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Hydraulic fracturing -- Utah -- Pictorial works
Indians of North America -- Southwest, New --
Pictorial works
Navajo Indians -- Pictorial works
Photography, Artistic
Pollution in art -- Pictorial works
Radioactive pollution -- Navajo Indian
Reservation -- Pictorial works
Uranium mines and mining -- Navajo Indian
Reservation -- Pictorial works

Geographic Names

Arizona -- Pictorial works
Navajo Indian Reservation -- Pictorial works
New Mexico -- Pictorial works
Utah -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Aerial photographs
Inkjet prints
Photographs

Acquired From

Wilson, Will, 1969- , bookseller