



THE BOSTON GLOBE • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2000

JOHN COPLANS: SELF-PORTRAIT
FINGER and AMANDA MEANS:
PLANT LIGHT

*At: Howard Yezerski Gallery, 24
Newbury St., through Feb. 29*

By Cate McQuaid
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Also at Yezerski, Amanda Means's ravishing photographs of flowers are an antidote to Coplans's scrutiny of mortality. Means places plants in an enlarger and makes photograms of them, then prints negatives of those photograms. So her flowers are light where they should be dark, and appear infused with a giddy spiritual beauty. "Hyacinth 2" is a vertical shaft festooned with bell-like blossoms. At its center, the plant is imbued with light, which pales in the outer blossoms.

"Rose 3" takes the idea a step further. Here, Means has taken a rose whose petals have dropped and withered like cooked lettuce, falling like translucent gray drapery away from the stamen at the top, which glows in a cluster of lights. This piece isn't simply about beauty and the immanence of light, but also about loss.