



Glowing technique

From her radiant and yet also strangely elegiac images of lightbulbs, leaves, and flowers, it is obvious that Amanda Means is doing something other than focusing a camera on her subjects and then shooting. Still, I was surprised to learn that each of Means' glowing prints is a kind of photogram. Instead of placing an object directly on light-sensitive paper to record its image, however, Means captures the shadow or negative of an object by shining light through it onto development paper that she has mounted on a wall. She is also a master photographic printer who used to print for other

photographers (among them Robert Mapplethorpe), which must account for the lustrousness of her prints.

The result of Means' photographic technique is an image that suggests the essence or core of its subject. Whether that core is a bright filament or the glowing interior of a chrysanthemum, the effect is of a ghostly flicker of energy that wouldn't ordinarily be seen.

Gallery 339, 339 S. 21st St., 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Through May 14. 215-731-1530 or www.gallery339.com.

Amanda Means' photographic prints are on display at Gallery 339.