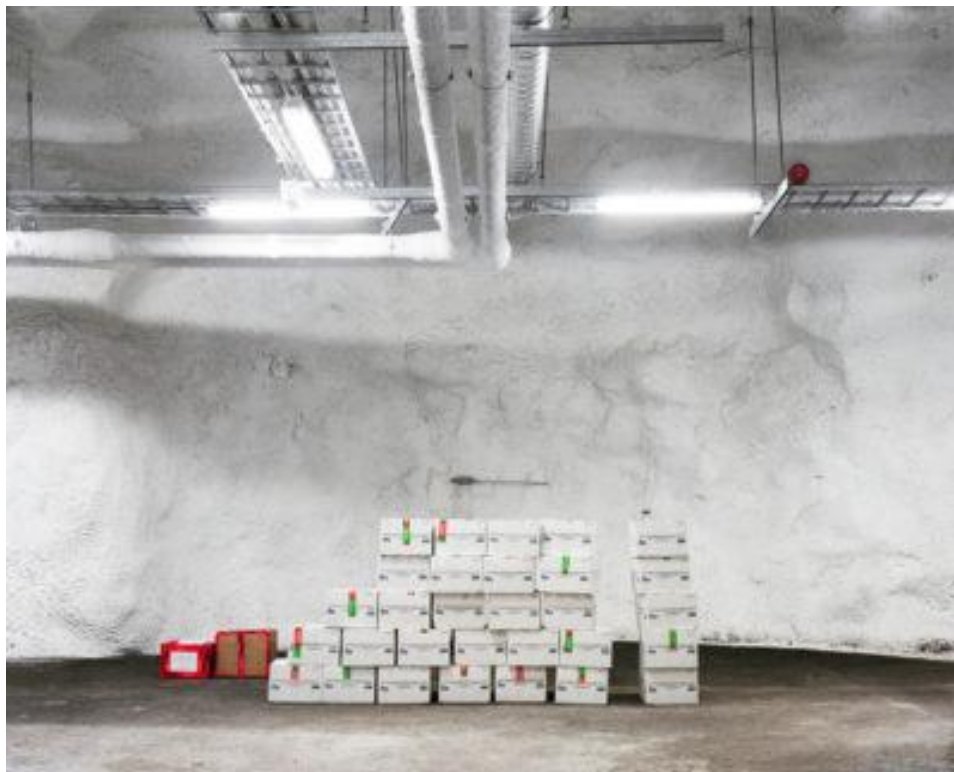


**- FI - RE - CRA - CK - ER -**  
supporting women photographers

Dornith Doherty





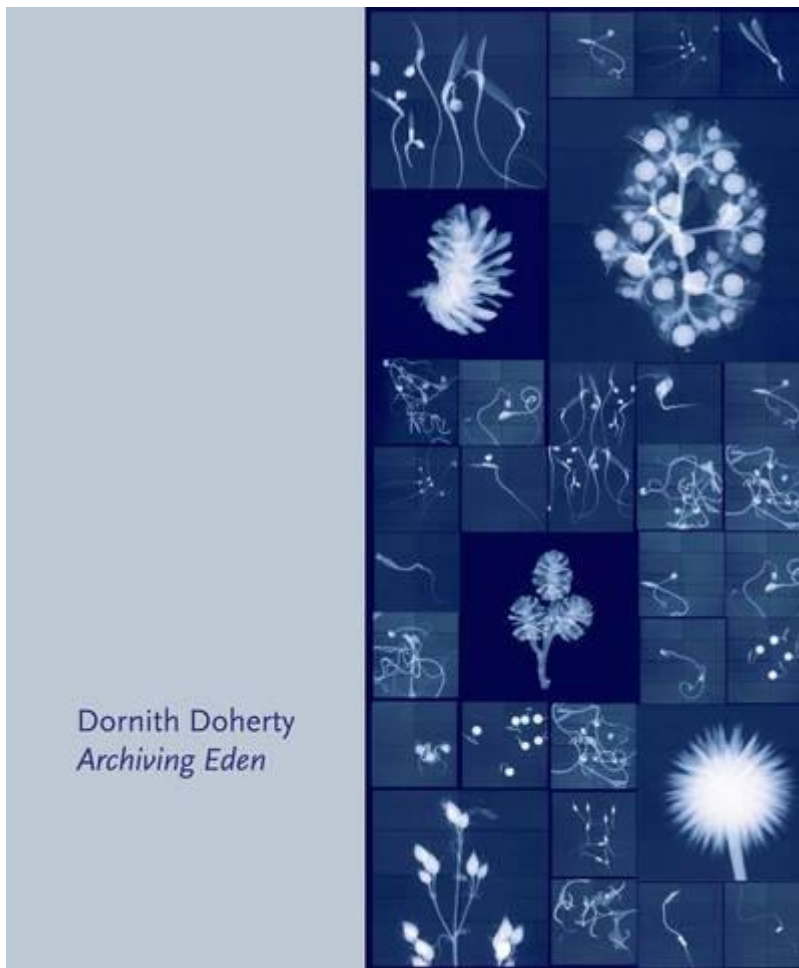
## Archiving Eden

Spurred by the impending completion of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Archiving Eden explores the role of seed banks and their preservation efforts in the face of climate change, the extinction of natural species, and decreased agricultural diversity. Serving as a global botanical backup system, these privately and publicly funded institutions assure the opportunity for the reintroduction of species should a catastrophic event or civil strife affect a key ecosystem somewhere in the world.

Since 2008, Dornith Doherty has worked in collaboration with renowned biologists at the most comprehensive international seed banks in the world: the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service's National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Colorado, USA, the Millennium Seed Bank, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in the UK.; and PlantBank, Threatened Flora Centre, and Kings Park Botanic Gardens in Australia.

Utilizing the archives' on-site X-ray equipment that is routinely used for viability assessments of accessioned seeds, Doherty documents and subsequently collages the seeds and tissue samples stored in these crucial collections. The amazing visual power of magnified X-ray images, which springs from the technology's ability to record what is invisible to the human eye, illuminates her considerations not only of the complex philosophical, anthropological, and ecological issues surrounding the role of science and human agency in relation to gene banking, but also of the poetic questions about life and time on a macro and micro scale. Doherty is struck by the power of these tiny plantlets and seeds (many are the size of a grain of sand) to generate life and to endure the time span central to the process of seed banking, which seeks to make these sparks last for two hundred years or more.

Use of the color delft/indigo blue evokes references not only to the process of cryogenic preservation, central to the methodology of saving seeds, but also to the intersection of East and West, trade, cultural exchange, and migration. This tension between stillness and change reflects her focus on the elusive goal of stopping time in relation to living materials, which at some moment, we may all want to do.



## THE BOOK

### Dornith Doherty

Dornith Doherty is a 2012 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow born in Houston, Texas. She received a B.A. cum laude from Rice University and a MFA in Photography from Yale University. She currently resides in Southlake and is Distinguished Research Professor at the University of North Texas. She has received grants from the Fulbright Foundation, the Japan Foundation, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the United States Department of the Interior and the Texas Legislature named her Texas State Artist 2D in 2016.

Doherty's work has been exhibited widely including the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, TX; the Bluecoat, Liverpool, England; the Centro de Fotografía, Tenerife, Spain; the New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM; and the Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ. Her work is held in many of her exhibiting collections and she has been invited to present scholarly papers and artist talks at over 80 institutions and conferences worldwide.

Doherty's work has been featured by American Photo Index, BBC's Focus magazine, Dallas Morning News, Du magazine, Feature Shoot, Wall Street Journal, and Wired magazine, among others.

[www.dornithdoherty.com](http://www.dornithdoherty.com)