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Image created at the  
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# Suspended

Semi-finalist

'Suspended' is a lithographic and toner transfer print. It was created as part of my thesis research project that looks into how we understand flesh when it is separated from the body. Flesh as a substance on its own is in a strange transitional state. It still carries the taboos of the body; we react to it with conflicting feelings of repulsion and fascination, wanting to look and at the same time to look away.

And yet at the same time flesh is not body. It is inanimate matter, in many ways closer to the earth it is becoming than the body that it has been. The title of the piece speaks to this transitional state of identity in which flesh is suspended between animate and inanimate matter. The image itself is a drawing of discarded scraps of butchers' meat layered on a photographic image of scraps of meat lying in mud. The drawing does not seem to rest on the mud; instead it sits uneasily above it. It appears close to earth but not yet of it, symbolizing the strange in-between space that flesh occupies in our understanding.