Leptogorgia polyamides By Natalie Freeman Colorado State University

Leptogorgia polyamides is part of a larger series entitled Human's Nature, which reimagines the tradition of scientific illustration through the incorporation of pollution: encapsulating the beauty of organic forms that are haunted by artificial substitutions. Our propensity to amass waste and deposit it in the surrounding envi-ronment is largely

unchecked. Although humanity has been aware of the climate crisis for decades, our governments, legislations, and daily habits do not reflect the essential changes needed to mitigate this global degradation. Contemporary human behaviors generate single-use waste that form entire islands of plastic trash that float through the oceans. Scientific

illustration is an important tool in cataloguing biological organ- isms so they may be studied and understood. If we continue on our current path, then we cannot be upset by the consequences of our (in)action, but must appreciate the tragedy and the beauty within the cataclysmic mess we have made.



Gouache, acrylic, and ink, 24x24 in, 2021

