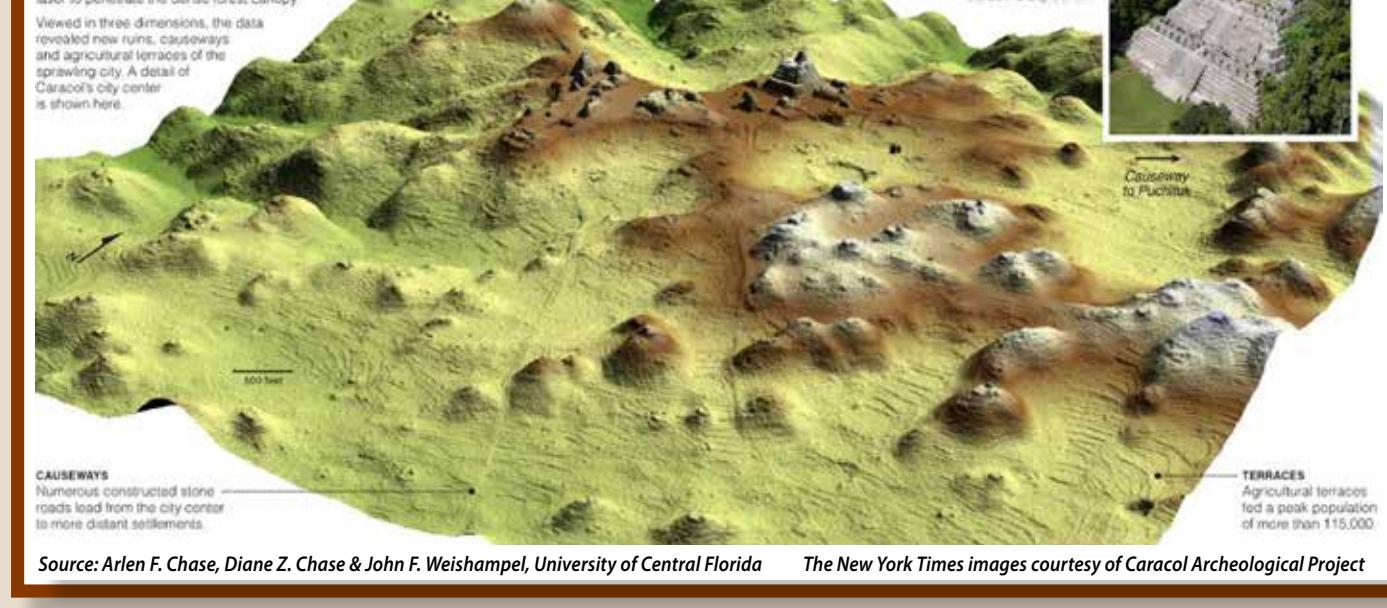


Bruce's Studio News

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Science, Technology, Art, Archeology & Inspiration



Source: Arlen F. Chase, Diane Z. Chase & John F. Weishampel, University of Central Florida The New York Times images courtesy of Caracol Archeological Project

This unknown Mayan Megalopolis discovery changes the history of human society

The image above is created by one of the newest technologies being used to map our planet's most obscure areas. LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) sends laser light from airplanes traversing large swaths of the landscape using a principle related to radar which, instead of using sound, uses light which bounces back for processing into images. The technique allows computers to remove surface vegetation and gives archeologists a 3D map of the earth's surface. Scientific explorations often funded by National Geographic, are turning up amazing images from around the world, and particularly from the jungles of Central America as this and the one below illustrate. Thousands of hidden buildings and ruins are being identified that were not even known about 10 years ago.



As an artist who has been exploring metaphorical aerial landscapes in relief for the last 10 years or so, this is extremely exciting and inspirational for me.

(I recommend a recent book that started me on a journey toward this new digital explosion of images: *Douglas Preston's 2017 book The Lost City of the Monkey God* is a wonderful chronicle of the beginning of this advanced method of exploration in some of the most forbidding and dangerous jungles of Honduras).

How does this affect me NOW? Most of all, it makes me think more deeply about how this developing exposure of undiscovered past civilizations opens my imagery to untrodden ground also! Artists have always drawn from the past, either in admiration of—or reaction against—what has come before or what may be happening in their contemporary society. No art can be completely without influence from earlier experiences or present times and technologies.

So, for those who have followed my art or newsletters, you are aware of my fascination with the creation of invented artifacts as a means to express a metaphorical view of our cultural tendencies and viewpoints as humans. In some of my earlier pieces I asked the viewer to imagine the possibility of life, or death, beyond our planet by fabricating an alien skeletal relic... or, perhaps, to ask metaphysical questions in the form of an unearthened maze. Sometimes in attempting to highlight contemporary issues that seem to unsettle our world I sublimate my feelings in wall mounted reliefs as I address my personal antipathy toward environmental devastation, climate change, social inequities, or militarism in a visual/tactile manner.

Admittedly, my art needs to be viewed with a willingness to seek meaning that is deeper than surface, technique, material, form or color; which is why I always try to provide a starting point for the viewer in the title of each piece.

A new work in process, is seen in a few stages below; far from finished it is being prepared for a July 2018 exhibition at the AVA Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon, NH.

