



Transparency of a dream

by Alexander James

supporting text...

The butterfly is widely significant in different cultures; symbolising love, regeneration, fortune, freedom, spirituality and death. The connection Greek Mythology draws between butterflies and the souls of those who have passed away is of particular interest to me.

In 2010 I started to breed these remarkable creatures myself and through this process, a strong dialogue became apparent. This delicate creature undergoes an epic transition - unquestioningly embracing both her body and changing environment - expending energy on a huge scale to make it happen. It is as if she thereby asks us to accept the changes in our lives as abidingly as she does.

Imagining the whole of your life changing to such an extreme that you are unrecognizable at the end offers great hope to me. The original 'Swarm' series explored these themes through the introduction of water, believing that drawing on water's transient and destructive nature exposes the fragility of life and the temporary nature of our existence since it acts as both nurturer and destroyer; having the power to cleanse and reinvent or to drown and disappear.

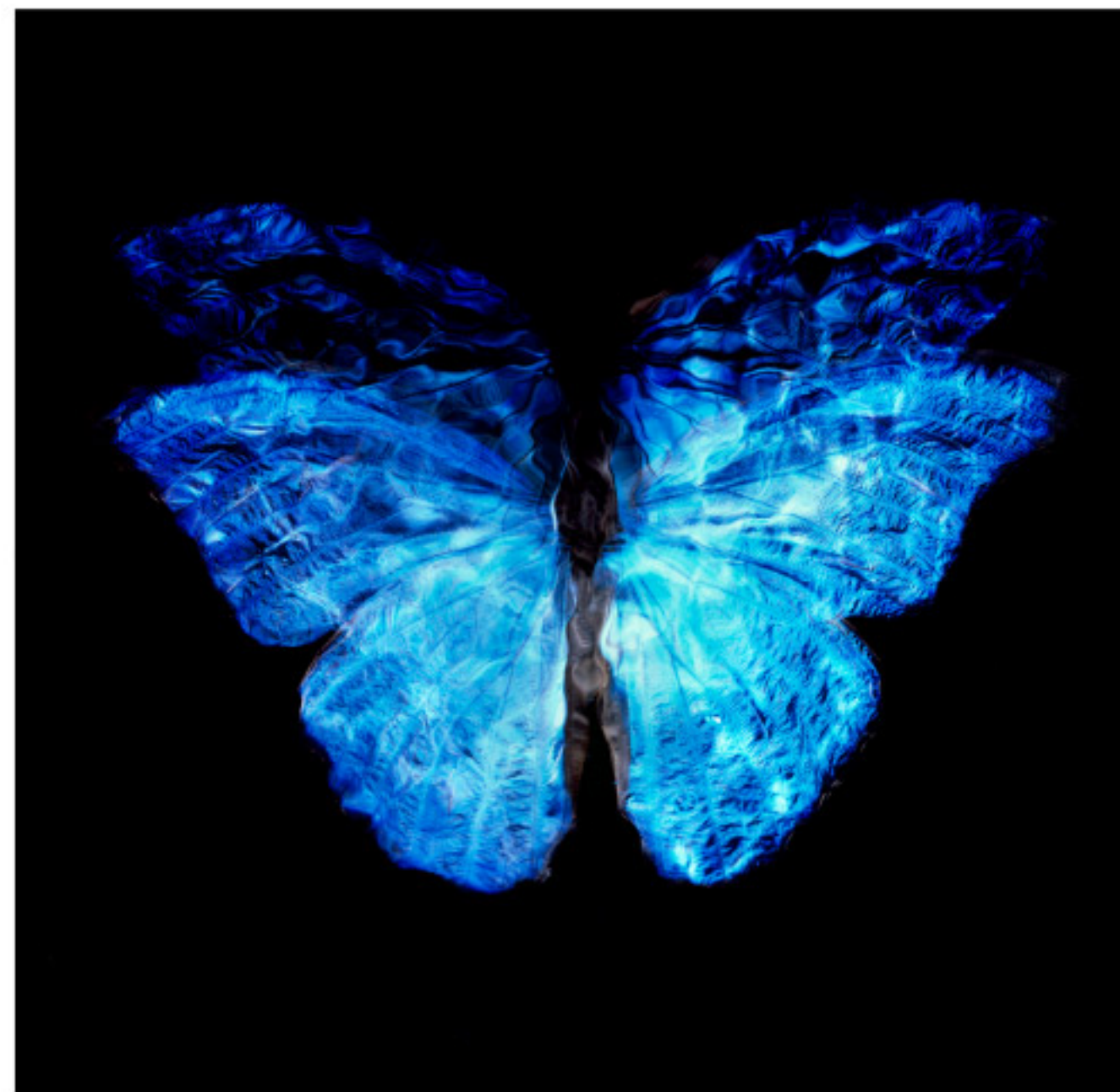
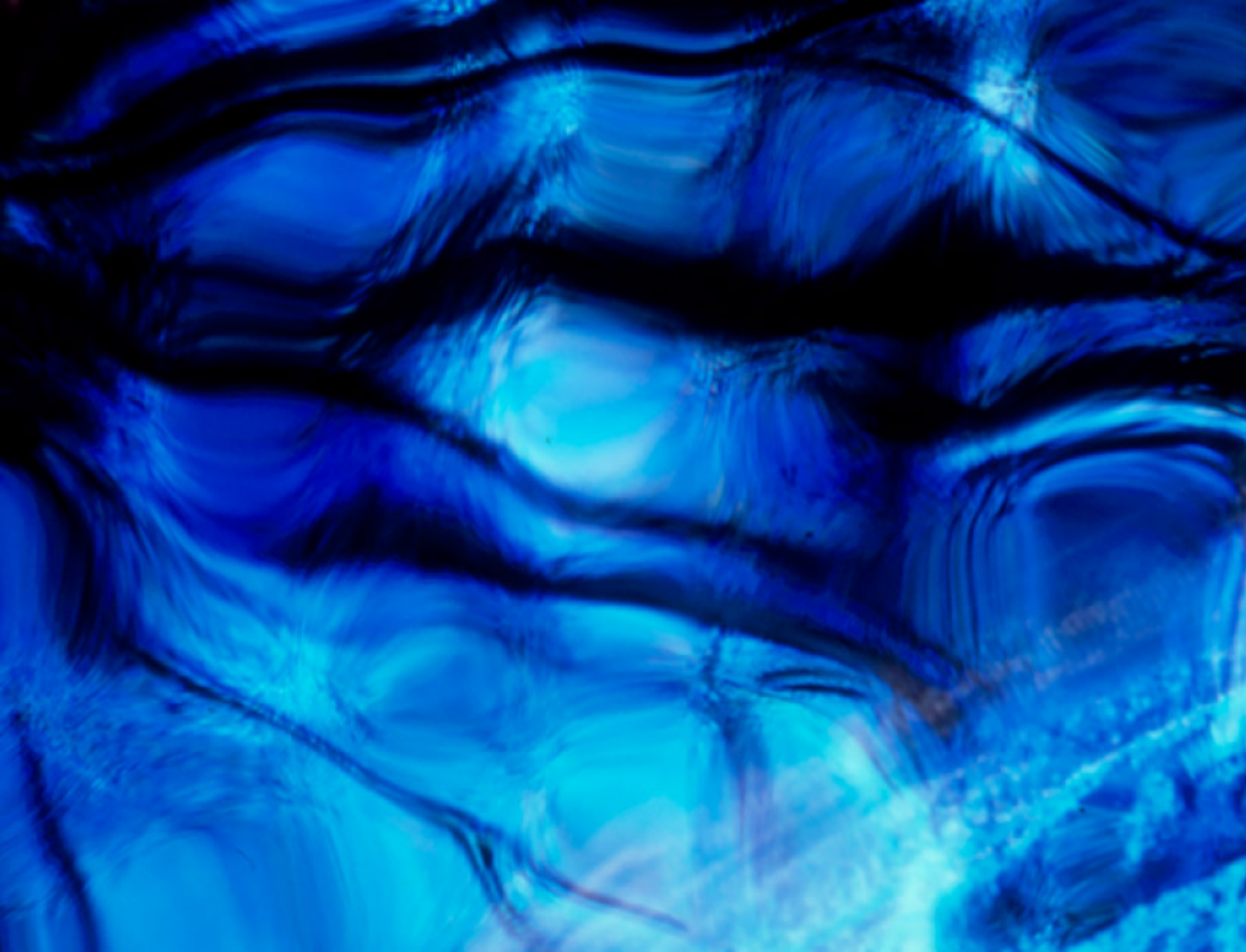
For me 'Swarm' explores this subject in a hyper-real and painterly aesthetic created through the interacting of light through the water's mechanics. It acts as a reflection on life and mortality and how it is fleeting, beautiful and ultimately, tragic.

I started to further explore these themes in 2014 with a new body of work titled '*Transparency of a dream*'.

.... A particular conversation with a curator was especially in mind, one from ten years ago in which the reproducible capacity of photography - its force and its failing, was scrutinised. I was provoked by the notion that a painting is intrinsically more valuable than a photograph primarily because of its singular uniqueness. To counter this perception I present this series of one-off transparencies printed only as a single edition artwork in an attempt to challenge the ideas concerning the spiritual and economic valuation of artworks and to create an exciting tension between their individual present and relinquished, reproducible past.

These differ greatly from the original 'Swarm' works; here an original scene was captured on a single 8 x 10 inch film plate with a parent butterfly specimen; these plates were then annotated and stored for several months until their children were born and matured, these siblings were then reshot over the top of the original plates. Creating a dream like sensation of descendants dancing with one another; something in nature that never occurs. These artworks differed with their appearance of sheer fluttering delicacy, ghost like scenes enabled by creating time delayed sculptural scenes underwater with painstaking intricacy, each piece is not only a unique physical entity but embodies an unrepeatable aesthetic efflorescence; representing the singular, ghostly event of artistic consummation performed through painterly liquid mechanics.

Original like a sketch or painting, these one-off artworks reverse the conventional parameters of photographic works. Blurring the lines between sculpture, painting and photography. Existing only as a single piece of 8 x 10 inch acetate and one single edition print.



Alexander James
'Untitled 0813-022'
from 'Transparency of a dream'
dated 2014
C-Type print
160x160 cms
Single Edition 1 of 1.

*mounted to polished aluminium
box framed in Oak behind museum glass*

Alexander James
'untitled 0813-010'
from 'Transparency of a dream'

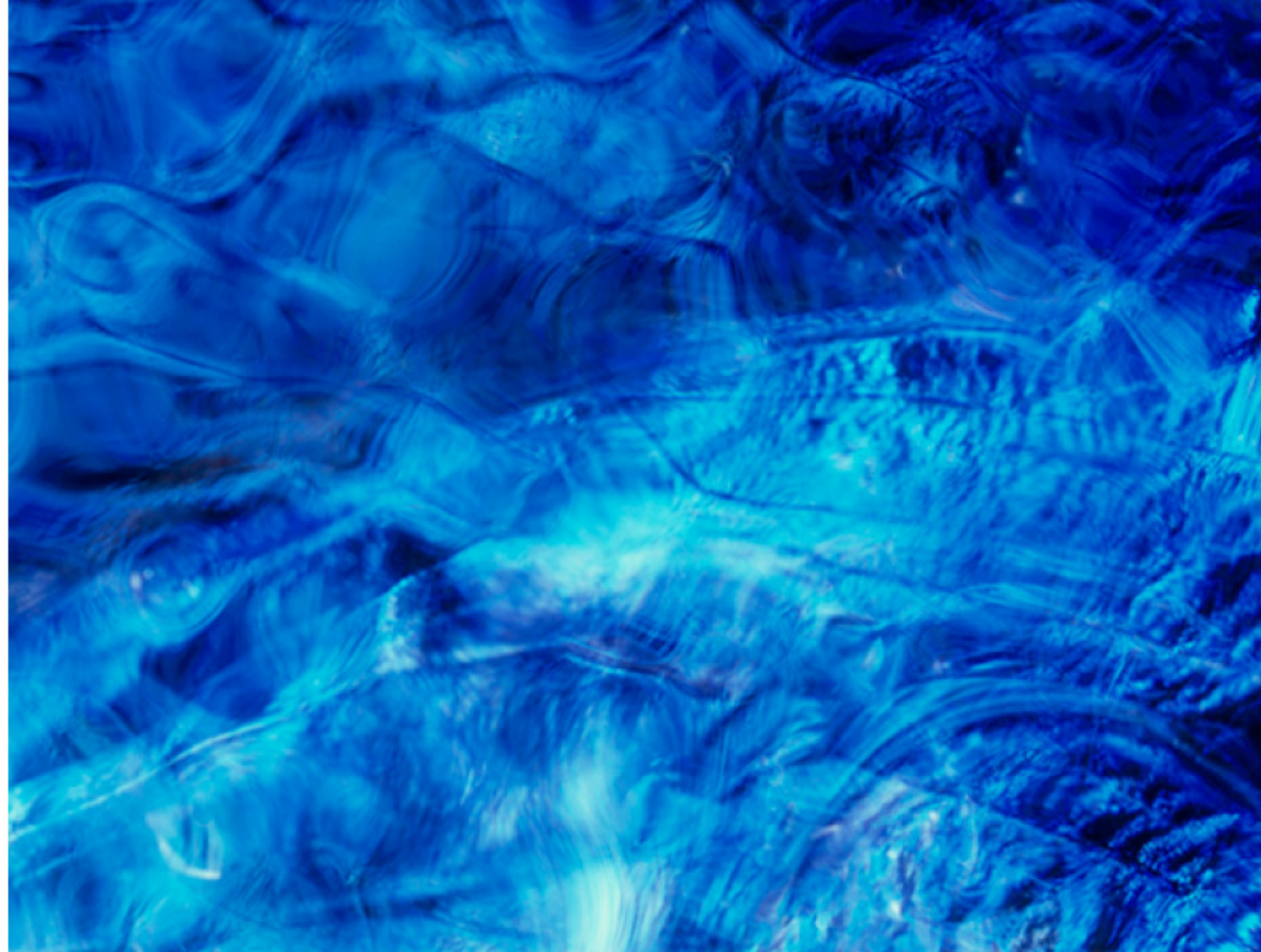
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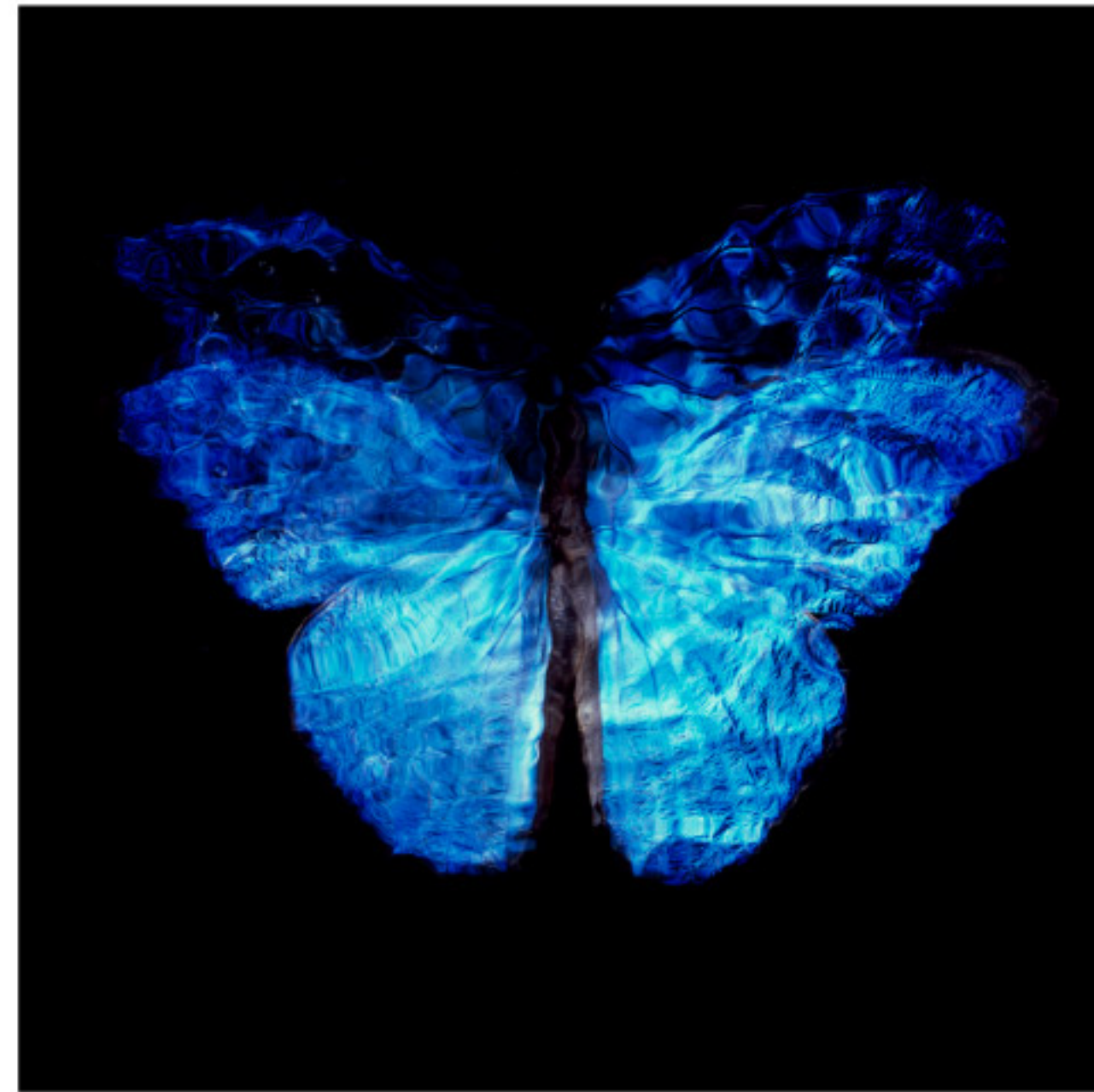
C-Type print

160x160 cms

Single Edition 1 of 1.

mounted to polished aluminium
box framed in Oak behind museum glass





Alexander James
'Untitled 0813-028'
from *'Transparency of a dream'*

dated 2014
C-Type print
160x160 cms
Single Edition 1 of 1.

*mounted to polished aluminium
box framed in Oak behind museum glass*

Alexander James
'untitled 0813-021'
from 'Transparency of a dream'

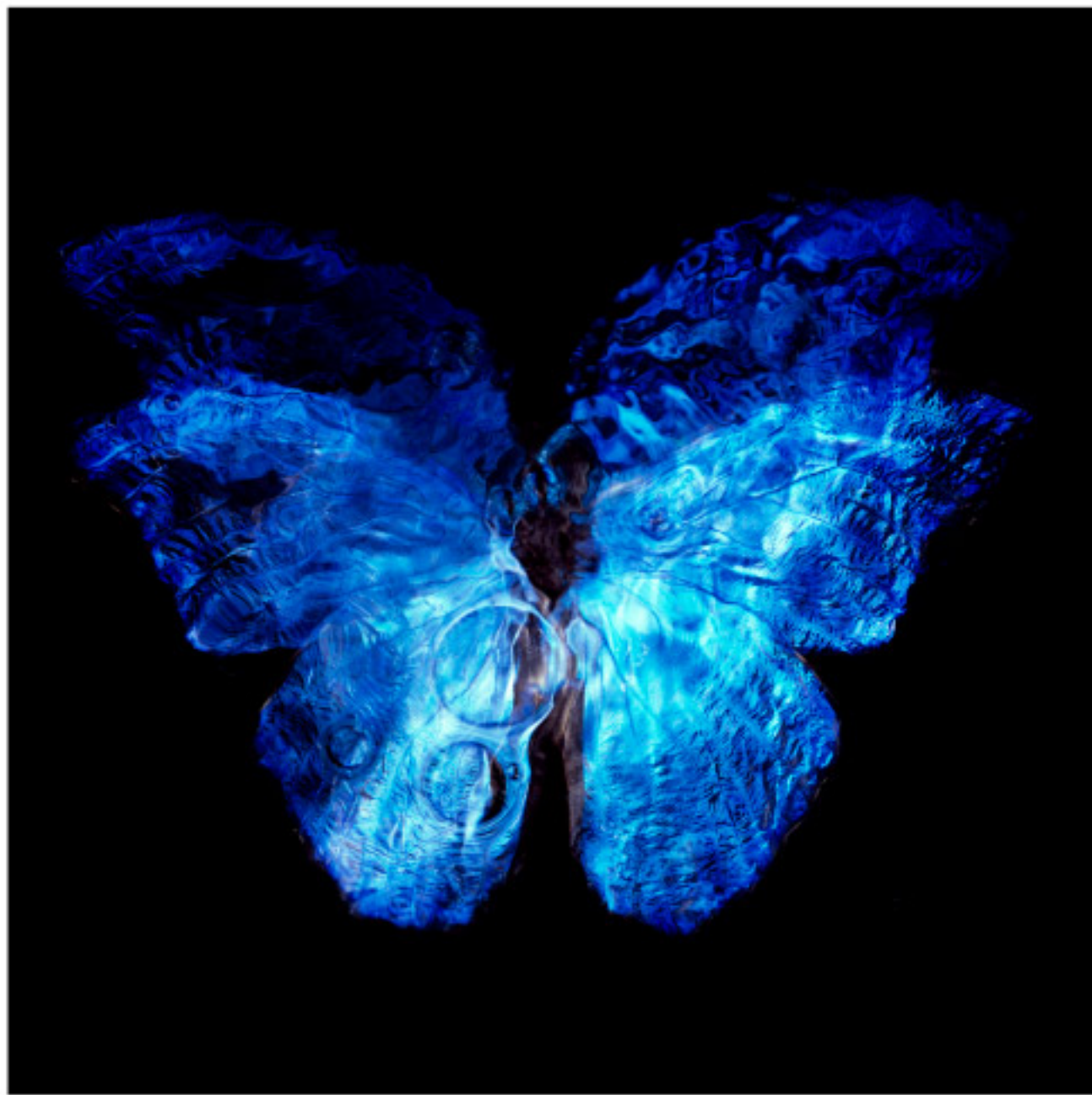
dated 2014

C-Type print

160x160 cms

Single Edition 1 of 1.

mounted to polished aluminium
box framed in Oak behind museum glass





Alexander James
'Untitled 0913-007'
from 'Transparency of a dream'

dated 2014
C-Type print
160x160 cms
Single Edition 1 of 1.

*mounted to polished aluminium
box framed in Oak behind museum glass*

Alexander James
'untitled 0913-021'
from 'Transparency of a dream'

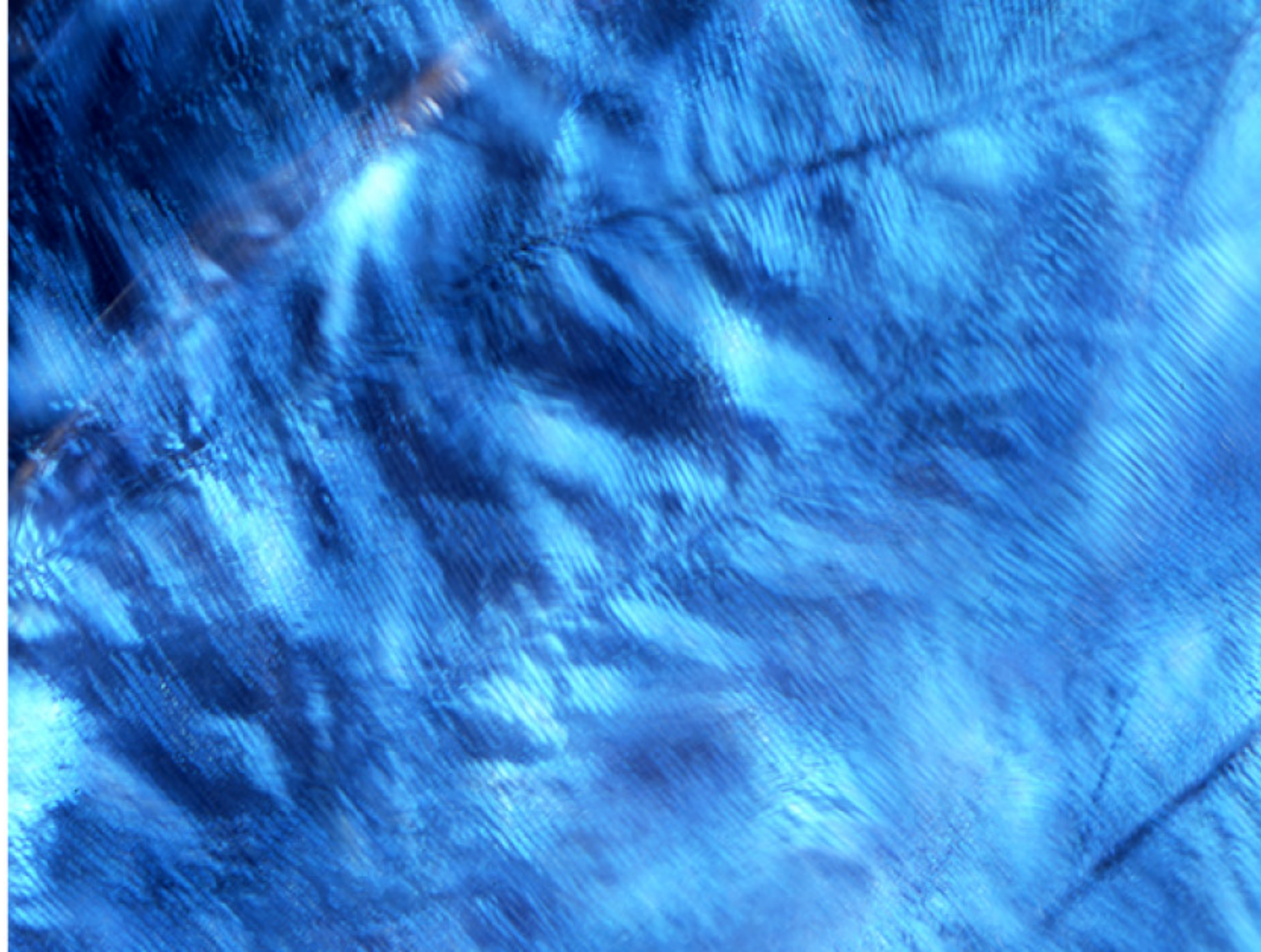
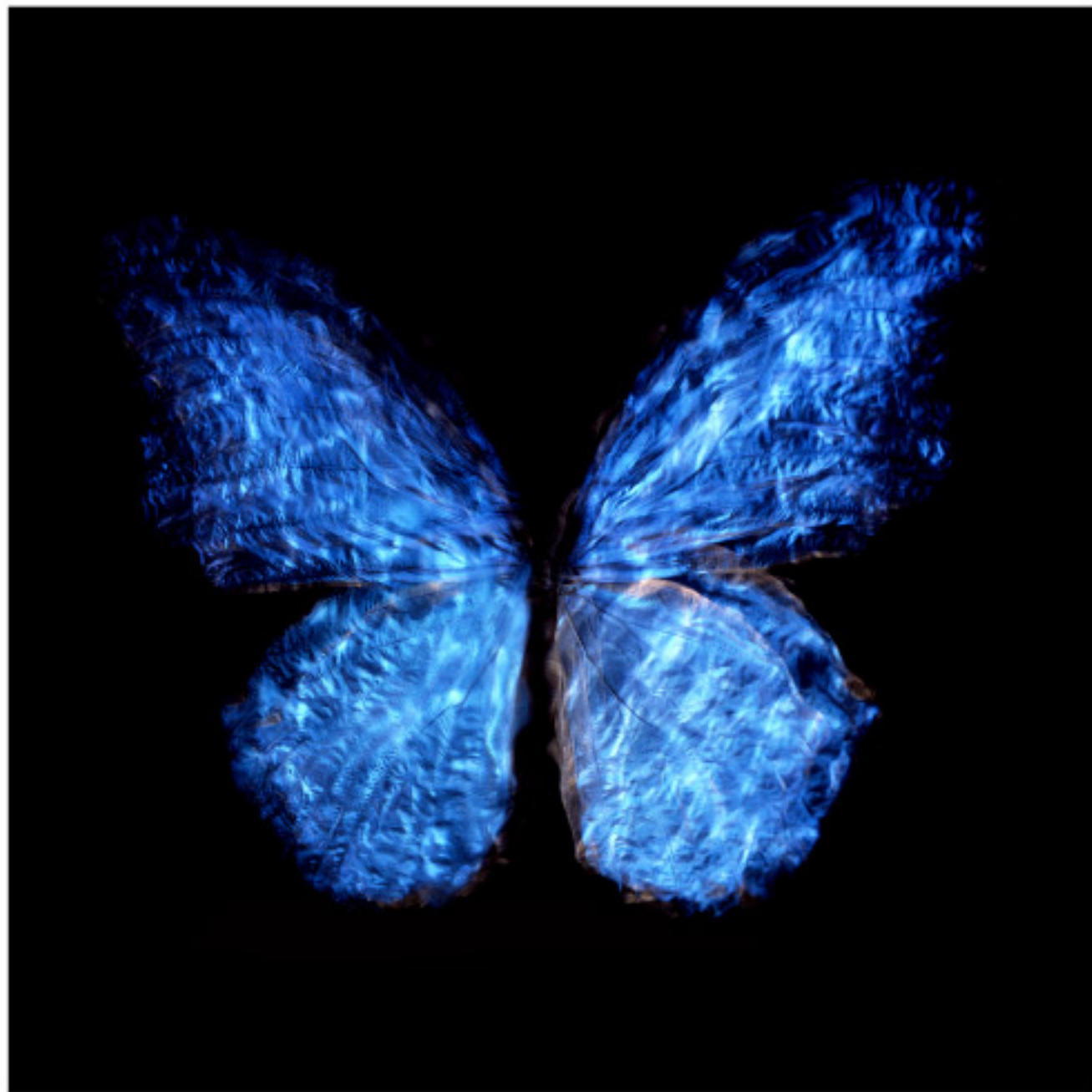
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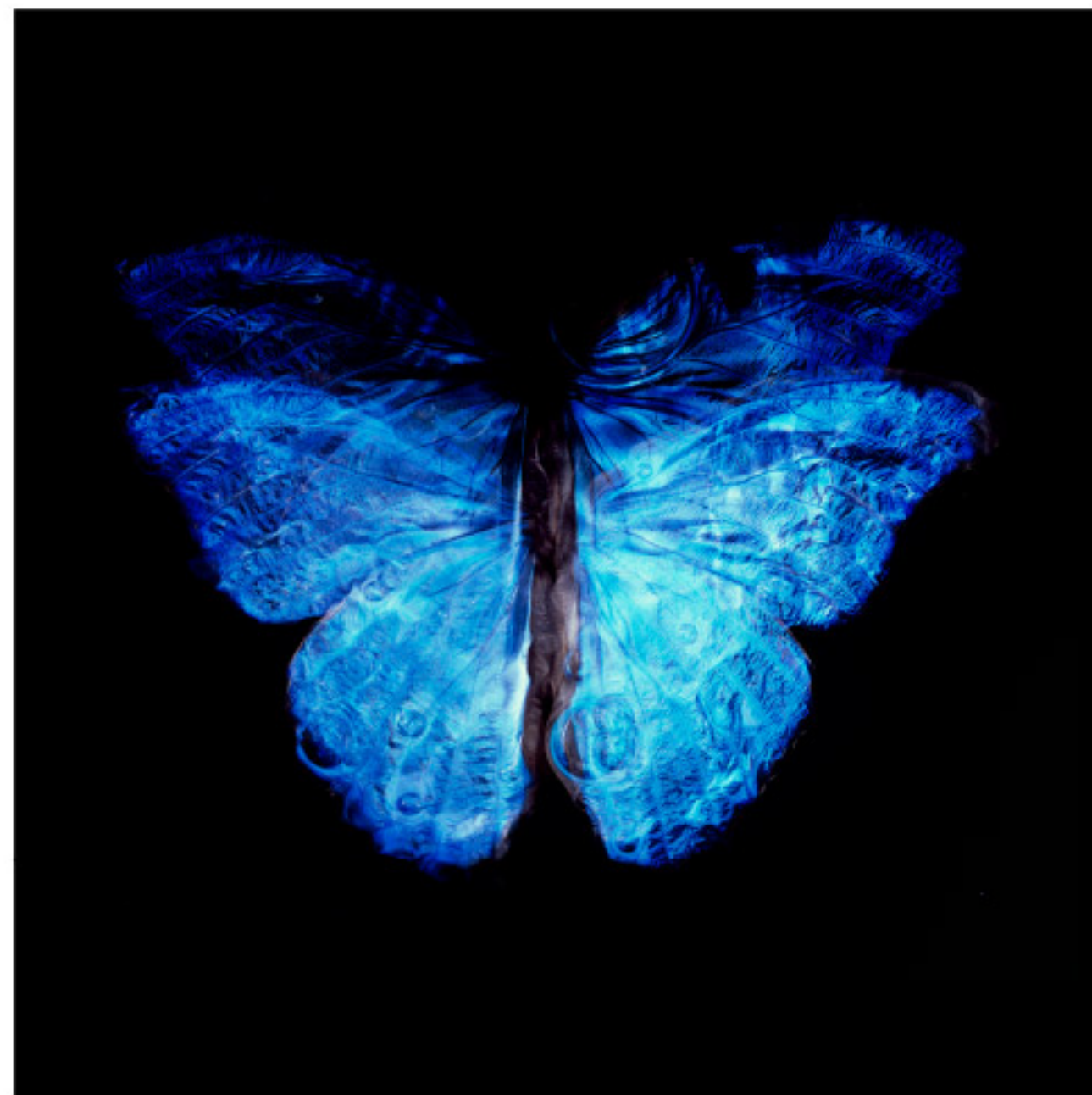
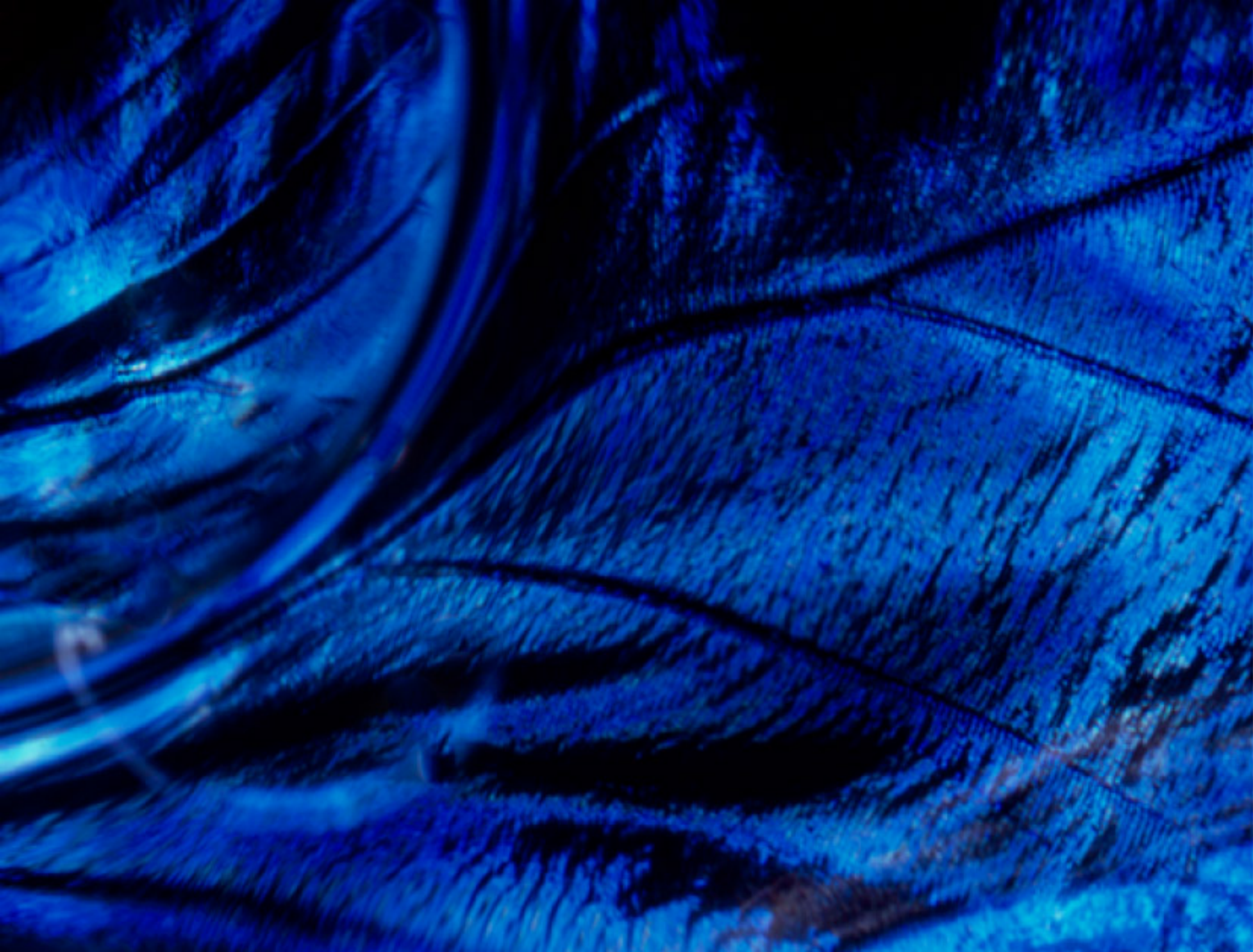
C-Type print

160x160 cms

Single Edition 1 of 1.

mounted to polished aluminium
box framed in Oak behind museum glass





Alexander James
'Untitled 0813-027'
from *'Transparency of a dream'*

dated 2014
C-Type print
160x160 cms
Single Edition 1 of 1.

*mounted to polished aluminium
box framed in Oak behind museum glass*