

VANITAS

by Alexander J Hamilton (2008-Ongoing)



‘ Artist Alexander James Hamilton creates meticulously crafted sculptural scenes; using studio made props, breeding butterflies, growing period specific flowers, hand making the dress and 24 carat gold halo for his Ophelia in 'Witness', 2012 from 'A beautiful announcement of death'; endeavours that imbue a harmonious dialogue with his subject that is ultimately to be encased within a vast underwater landscape. He does this solely for one purpose, that of documenting the realisation on a single 8 * 10 inch analogue camera plate.

These photographic plates are the only existing record of a far bigger conceptual process that is produced through his complete dedication to a renaissance studio practice. Perhaps in an effort to exercise a form of control; to relive its tragic baroque beauty. To preserve its memory, from ever being able to fade away.

The introduction of water serves its purpose both symbolically and as the functional device through which to achieve the painterly execution of these works; with the interaction of brushes and the artists bare hands on the surface tension of the water, literally painting the subject in light; the results of which are aching with the dramatic radiance of Caravaggio. '

- Andrei Tolstoy, 1956-2016. Professor of Arts, Russian Academy of Arts & President AICA Russia.



Salon hang of Vanitas works at the exhibition 'Still Even' PA&G Gallery. Each artwork is framed in black cotton velvet hanging along side 16th century works by Dutch painter Pieter Claesz.

In his 'Vanitas' works, Alexander James Hamilton re-visits the works of the 17th century Dutch Masters using period props, food and real insects including butterflies that he breeds himself. Each carefully staged underwater scene is captured in-camera without the use of post production, either traditional or digital. Working with subtle distortions of light & movement from the waters wave energy & form to create a unique and painterly effect. The subjects appear as if to be floating in a black space that neither interferes nor disrupts the subject matter; the collaboration within this void offering a serene and dreamlike sensation.

Vanitas had its renaissance in the 17th century, when Dutch artists became focused on the theme of mortality using natural specimens such as flowers cut from the root and starting to wither; or pieces of decaying fruit to express a memento mori - a reminder of the inevitability of death in all things living. Moreover, metals, and objets d'art were used to remind the audience of the meaninglessness of a superficial existence.

Hamilton further explores these themes through the introduction of water; acting as both nurturer and destroyer, it has the power to cleanse and reinvent, or to drown and disappear. Believing that drawing on water's transient and destructive nature exposes the fragility of life, and the temporary nature of our existence; Ultimately, by playing upon and transforming the genre's inherent symbolic themes Alexander James Hamilton's 'Vanitas' series act as a reflection on life and mortality, questioning it's meaning in a society dominated by materialism.

With sleeping wild animals, period objects, decaying fruit, cut flowers and precious objects illustrating the transience of life and earthly pleasures, the subtle yet pervading presence of water in these works symbolises its power to give life as well as destroy it, whilst serving as the functional device through which Hamilton achieves the mesmerizing painterly effect that distinguishes his artwork.



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



' Grace ' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Untitled 5253' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Awaiting Nix' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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' Poppies with artichoke ' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Loves Resurrection' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Hypnos table for Morpheus' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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' Isis Bound ' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)

‘ The consistency of his artistic vision is one of the most remarkable things about Alexander. Having discovered his voice in the late eighties, he has devoted himself to articulating it with the lifelong self-discipline of a medieval monk. In our publicity chasing era, such conviction commands respect. He is an oak tree in the landscape of contemporary art, not some lesser rooted being that bows to wherever the wind of public opinion takes it. ’

letter of introduction from Andrei Tolstoy to the Russian Academy of Arts

Andrei Tolstoy 1956-2016. Russian Academic, Professor Of Arts & President AICA Russia.



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' Isolation ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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' Bitter sweet table ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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' Immortal at rest ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Untitled 0498' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Temptation of Isis' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)

‘ James’ fanatical insistence on being involved with every aspect of his creations is awe inspiring, and is perhaps only matched by his disdain for the easy route.’

[Dominic Perry, Culture Critic, Philistine Magazine.](#)



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'Untitled 5374' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Emperors Truth' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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' Memory by Gloriosa ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Multiply' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Untitled 0592' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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' Frequency Resurrection ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 × 10 inches / 19 × 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 × 17.7 inches / 60 × 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 × 35.4 inches / 120 × 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 × 59 inches / 200 × 150 cms

[check availability](#)

‘ Rather than capturing the moment spontaneously, James creates intricate sculptural compositions submerged in huge tanks of purified water as the object for his camera. The effect of light passing through, heightened against a darkened background, gives the resulting images a painterly appearance, recalling Dutch vanitas still life. This blurring of boundaries between photography, painting and sculpture renders James’s works un-categorisable and eerily beautiful. ’

[Anna McNay, Arts Correspondent, Studio International Magazine.](#)



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'Untitled 0640' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



' Clytie scent of Apollo ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 × 10 inches / 19 × 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 × 17.7 inches / 60 × 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 × 35.4 inches / 120 × 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 × 59 inches / 200 × 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'The great leveller' dated 2010
Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms
Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms
Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms
plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Love & Chaucer' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Untitled 0727' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Transient in dowsed lights of Magnolia ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

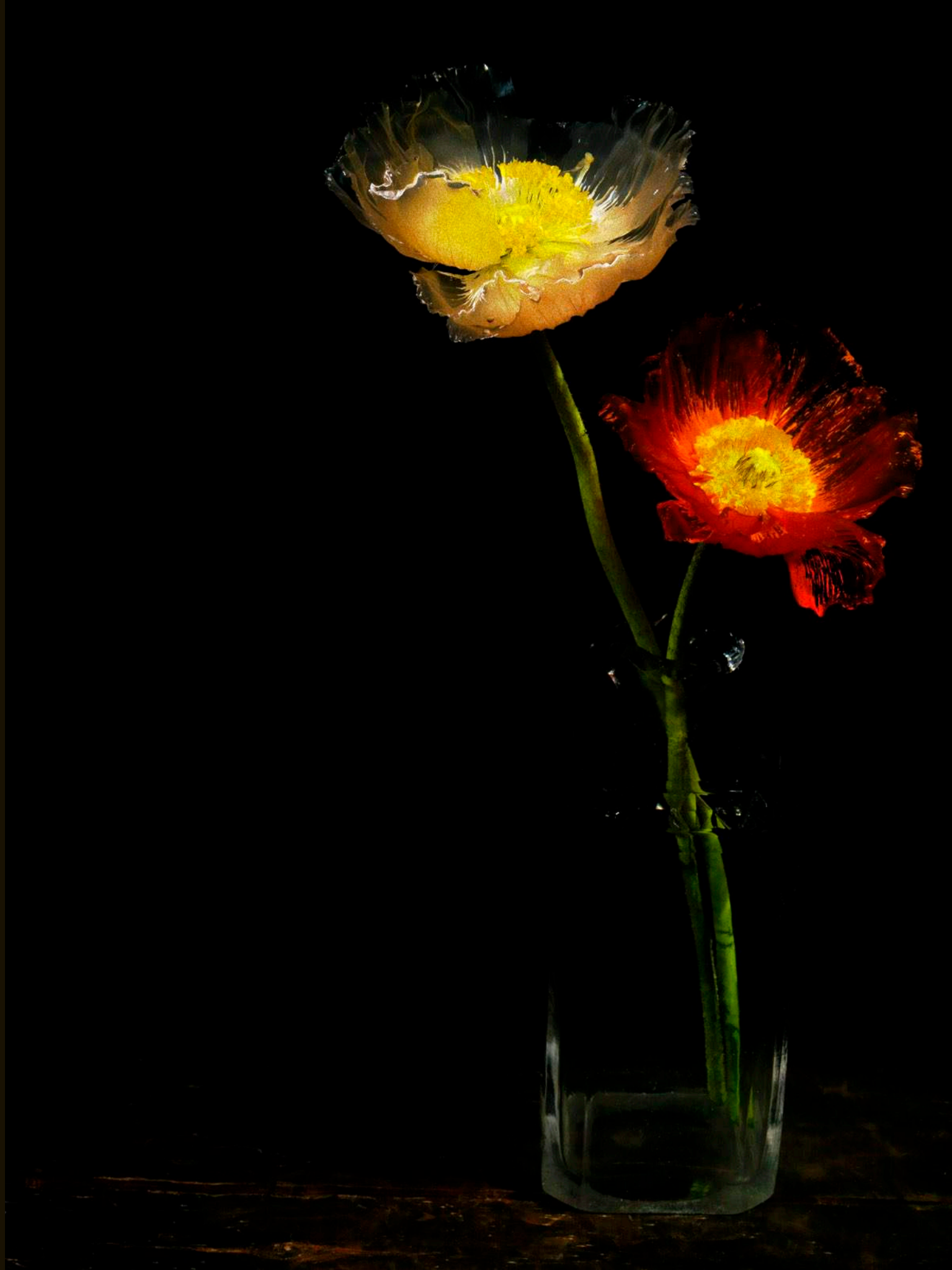
Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)

‘ This method of exploring the subtle distortions that water makes on light is painstakingly exact and the results are simply quite extraordinary. ’

[Bob Chaundry The Huffington Post.](#)



[view a framed 60x80cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Awaiting Hypnos ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 23.6 x 31.5 inches / 60 x 80 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs

[check availability](#)



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'Untitled 0274' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Innocent soul' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Virtue ' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



' Prosperity ' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Untitled 1122' dated 2010

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)

‘ The works of artist Alexander James Hamilton are beyond the time and trends of todays modern art world. They are deeply personal, sensitive and yet interwoven with layers of strength whilst being so tragically beautiful, causing an immediate catharsis effect which we discovered in his studio with our own eyes. ‘

[Arts Critic Daria Gorshkova for BURO 247](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



' Influence of aspirations ' dated 2013

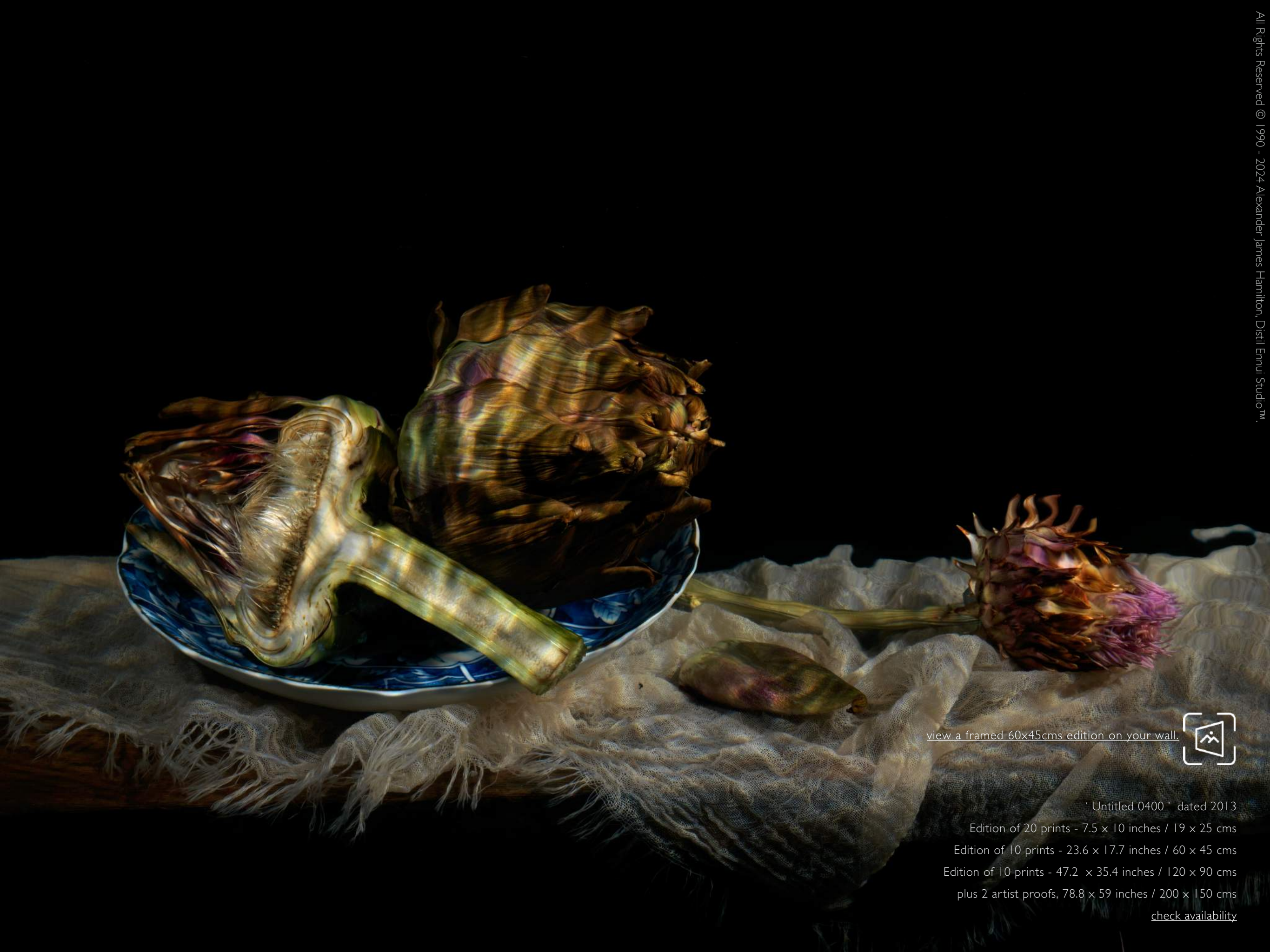
Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Untitled 0400' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



'Untitled 0441' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



[view a framed 60x45cms edition on your wall.](#)



' Perception ' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)



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'Headstone tableau' dated 2013

Edition of 20 prints - 7.5 x 10 inches / 19 x 25 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 23.6 x 17.7 inches / 60 x 45 cms

Edition of 10 prints - 47.2 x 35.4 inches / 120 x 90 cms

plus 2 artist proofs, 78.8 x 59 inches / 200 x 150 cms

[check availability](#)

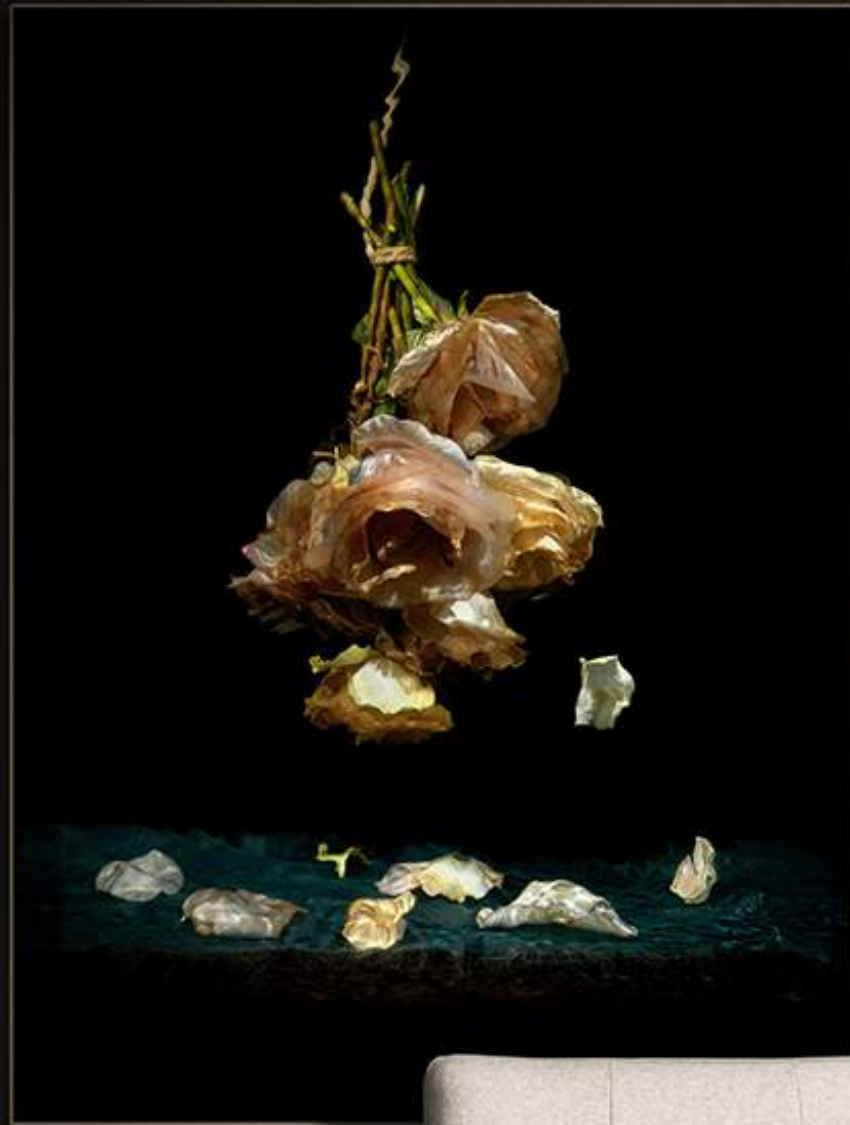


Vanitas room at the exhibition 'Intersection' showing a selection of small museum framed works



Inside the Vanitas room at the exhibition 'Intersection'

each artwork is a chromogenic print mounted to recycled aluminium panel, face mounted in museum Anti-Reflect & Ultra Violet acrylic, 'snug' framed in American walnut



darkroom print, with signature recto & NFC encrypted tag verso.

PROVENANCE.....

- 02-2018 Book publication Vernon Press 'Animae' ISBN 978-1-62273-384-2.
- 09-2017 Museum Exhibition 'Contemporary Still Life' Guildhall Museum, London.
- 02-2017 Museum of Contemporary Art 'Vanitas', Warsaw.
- 04-2016 'Reinvigorating the still life' Bohuslän Museum, Sweden.
- 06-2015 'Natre Morte' Hå Gamle Prestegard Museum, Norway.
- 10-2013 Book publication Thames & Hudson 'Natre Morte' ISBN 10-0500239061.
- 04-2013 Exhibition 'Intersection', London.
- 10-2011 Exhibition 'The House Of The Nobleman', London.
- 06-2011 Exhibition 'Still Even' Pertwee Anderson & Gold Gallery, London.

Frames are custom made exclusively by the artist to perfectly compliment each work. All elements from the photographic print, mount and framing is made to the highest conservation standards. By containing every element of the production process in-house, you are assured of a circular execution while enshrining the archival provenance of the artwork.

Works from this series are available framed in a range of designs including a [Shuo Sugi Ban](#) sustainably harvested cedar wood frames.

All works are delivered with an [encrypted NFC provenance tag](#) with the artworks signature biometrics recorded in Catalogue Raisonné. This NFC tag can be scanned by any mobile phone to offer uncompromising artwork provenance verification without the need to download a special application. The system is future proof and operates without the heavy carbon footprint normally associated with blockchain type authentication systems. This unique artwork verification platform was developed in collaboration with [123Automate.It](#) & the [Distil Ennui Studio™](#).

The augmented reality facility enabled in this catalogue is in collaboration with [Nvzn Easy ARt Viewer](#).