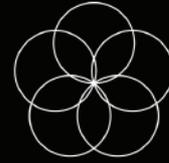


ALL ICONS ARE FALSE



GYNAECOLOGICAL
CANCER FUND
SILENT NO MORE



CONTEMPORARY

www.dcontemporary.com

19th - 30th May 2017
Monday - Saturday 11am - 6pm

GCF and D Contemporary are very happy to introduce artist Alexander James, presenting previous unseen works from his series *Vanitas*, *Rosae* and *Dissolved Sadness* the critically acclaimed Moscow exhibition alongside new abstract floral works titled *All Icons Are False*.

James is a unique artist who for three decades has explored the liquid mechanics of water as a primary medium, without the use of any post production. 'In this new body of work', he says, 'I present a Gothic homage to the stained glass window from the 21st century. The stained glass windows have had their religious totems removed and replaced with organic abstractions as the icon of these religious mantles. Nature and science alone command such idolism, all other icons are false.'

All Icons are False are images of flowers in water, but they look more like abstract stained-glass windows. To make them, James took 850 plate film photographs of 50 petal-heavy arrangements of flowers densely combined underwater, then variously layered these 'core plates' on a scanner – up to four at a time – using both positive and negative images. The rhythms which result are complicated, as not only are several plates scanned, but both the natural forms of the flowers and the wave effects of the water make their separate contributions. The flowers are all old varieties, returning us to how they looked at the time when their biblical symbolism was most vivid.

Words by Paul Carey-Kent (art critic)

10% of all sales made will go to the GCF (www.gynaecancerfund.com), enabling vital research at The Royal Marsden into improved diagnosis and treatment of the five gynaecological cancers (#silentnomore). Alexander is also donating one of his works from the exhibition to the Fund.

Gynaecological Cancer Fund is operated by Grace Belgravia Foundation Charity number 1154755

D Contemporary Gallery

23 Grafton Street, Mayfair, London, W1S 4EY

For more information email: sok@strategyinternational.co.uk



All Icons Are False

James moves beyond the falsity of icons to propose the need for spiritual renaissance with nature with the dramatic and moral use of light which is characteristic of Caravaggio.



Vanitas

James became known for classic Vanitas works that look remarkably like paintings, emphasising that this world is fleeting – but with the difference that his photographs are set under water.



Dissolved Sadness

The images of 'Dissolved Sadness' (2013-14) feature people underwater, their poses inspired by nineteenth-century paintings. James' new Vanitas, evidently, can be read as a reference to the effects of global warming: not just 'remember you will die', but 'remember the whole planet will die – unless we act fast'.

Rosae

Meanwhile, the 'Rosae' series (2010) implicates the false icons of commerce and religion by forming their signs out of underwater arrangements of roses so that, in James' words, 'a symbol of unrelenting love is juxtaposed against a deep dark void'.

