

Mountford

Tracy Mortimer

Born 1975, Singapore

This body of work illustrates the rich tonal range of traditional palladium printing on fine art paper using the latest digital negative techniques. Different developers were used to render different effects. This beautiful collection of prints evokes the “old world” feel of this technique.

As the name suggests, Palladium Printing uses palladium (part of the platinum group of metals) to create the visible image. This historical process dates back to the mid 1800's and requires the negative to be in direct contact with the sensitised paper and exposed to a UV light source such as sunlight. Different developers give different results, potassium oxalate based developers will produce warmer images whilst the ammonium citrate developer produces a cooler, black toned image.

It's a slow, handcrafted process that is not cheap, palladium is a precious metal after all. However, its popularity declined in the 1930's with the mass production of silver gelatin papers and rising prices of the rare metal. The 1970's saw a resurgence in the medium as the stability of palladium provided superior permanence and archival quality over silver based papers. Nowadays palladium is used as an alternative process, primarily in the domain of “fine art” photographers and printers, producing beautiful images.

Discover the timeless beauty of this process that is highly regarded as a prince of the photographic medium.

Tracy Mortimer completed her Advanced Diploma in Photography at CIT in 2008, where she received “Student of the Year” and “Best Fine Art” awards in her graduating year. She went on to found FOCO, specialising in commercial and portrait photography as well as fine art Palladium prints. In 2009 and 2010 she received bronze awards in the International Aperture Awards. In addition to exhibiting during FotoFreo 2010, Tracy was a member of the Fringe Festival committee.

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