









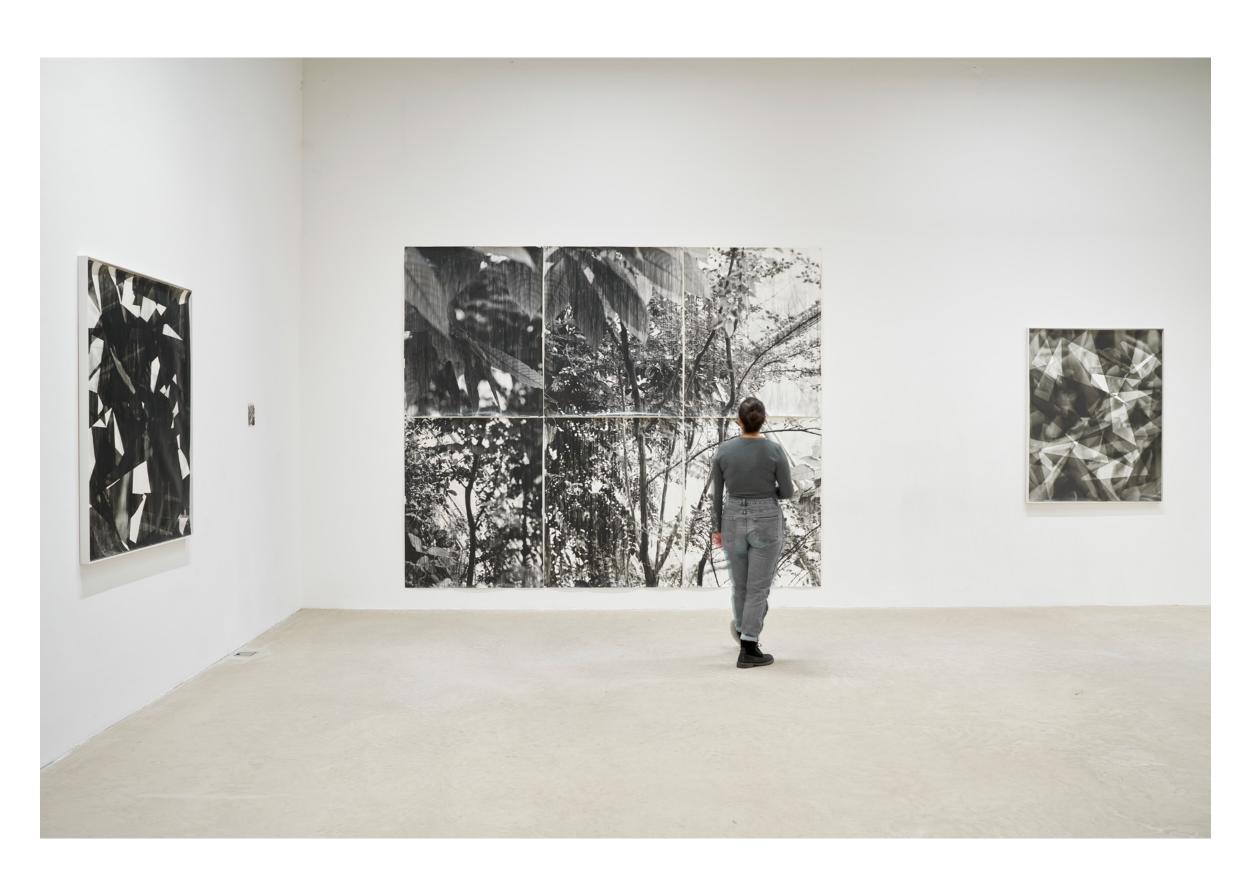


The Actual Life of a Thought: Notes on a Practice

The work isn't centred on one single line of enquiry. It's concentrated and casual, momentary and long form; made up of simultaneously developed, interlinked strands. It's a glance and sustained gaze, planned and happenstance. Photography is central to all of it, providing the possibility for both documentation and reinterpretation; it allows the collection of that which is seen and experimentation with what can't be.

Analogue materials sensitivity to light and time are the basis for various experimental works, providing tactile possibilities to expand upon the act of framing a picture; the layering of processes and interactions of forms create unique relationships within the picture plane, forming a condensed map of activity. These works are built outside of a singular moment, embedding in the surface of a photographic object: image forms, chemical interactions, photogram elements and traces of the activities/movements that created it. The picture plane is no longer the exclusive premise of that which is singularly translated by the lens, but a space in which layered forms and actions interact anew, creating dialogues between the external world and materiality of photography.

As is obvious with photography, time is central, and a constant question within the work is how we compartmentalise our experience of it in relation to the world around us. In some pieces the visibility of process alludes to a particular scale of time; accumulated exposures/hours/layers/reactions/movements, layering many interactions and events; a physically slow photography that brackets time, no longer relying on a singular moment and often operating quite literally in the dark; in the dim light of the darkroom but also compositionally.



Many of the non representational works are only 'revealed' in the final development of the paper, with the many layered exposures leading up that point latent on both the surface of the paper and the minds eye.

In other 'straight' photographs the image may refer to the technological, construction processes, a human activity, an individual or perhaps to geological time, maybe the stalwart fleeting moment. This interest in times varied visual manifestations is often bound to the natural world. The enormity of this subject contains the longest and shortest of time's scales, providing a way to directly engage with them from the perspective of a human life. These recorded observations are photography as a process of collecting. They form a growing archive which generate new relationships through various possible associations, both with other representational and non representational works. Each has a singular significance and the potential to generate something unexpected, or perhaps draw attention to a particular undercurrent, through constant rearrangements.

There's no one process to make the work. No definitive order or exclusive focus on one project at a time. Some strands develop over years, another could be made in hours. Some are the culmination of intensive activity and experiments with photographic paper, chemistry, projected images and layered exposures that reformat influences and forms; others rearrange existing parts, creating installations from disparate photographs where it is the thematic observation that is new, the photographs revealing each other. In one way or another, these processes are constant. They happen in the studio and on the move, through planned process and serendipitous discovery; always examining the layers of a photographic object and experience it can create.



A Moment in the Sun, 2019 6 fibre based silver gelatin prints, selenium toned cm. 264.5 x 323.5 - Ed. 1/3



Benjamin Jones

Heat is the Echo, 2019 4 fibre based silver gelatin prints, sepia toned cm. 264.5 x 216 - unique (detail)



Benjamin Jones

Heat is the Echo, 2019 4 fibre based silver gelatin prints, sepia toned cm. 264.5 x 216 - unique (detail)





Benjamin Jones

A Moment in the Sun, 2019 fibre based silver gelatin prints, selenium toned cm. 264.5 x 323.5 - Ed. 1/3





Aloe, 2019 fibre based silver gelatin print cm. 60 x 50 Ed.3+1AP





Island Bird, 2019-20 fibre based silver gelatin print cm. 37.5 x 30.5 Ed.10+2AP