



John Stewart, *Ardeko, Cambodia*, 2016, Charcoal print

John Stewart Stillness

PRIVATE VIEW

Wednesday 6th June, 6 - 9pm

7th June - 7th July 2018

Tuesday-Saturday, 11am - 6pm

Tristan Hoare is delighted to present Stillness, an exhibition of flowers and nudes by John Stewart.

Working with the John Stewart Estate, Tristan Hoare will exhibit a group of works which were printed during the artist's lifetime. The nudes are exhibited for the first time in the UK and many of the photographs are 'Fresson prints', a 19th century printing process practiced by the descendants of Theodore-Henri Fresson and loved by John Stewart.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

John Stewart (1919 – 2017) lived a fascinating life - born in London and raised in Paris he was drafted in the British Army for six years of which three-and-a-half were spent in POW camps on the River Kwai. His career as a photographer only begun in the 1950s in NY, where he was fortunate enough to be trained by the celebrated Russian art director of Harpers Bazaar, Alexey Brodovitch. A notoriously tough task master, Brodovitch valued talent, imagination and originality above all else and forged Stewart into "maid-of-all-work". In this way, he was comfortable on all assignments whether fashion, beauty, portraits or still-life; consequently, Stewart's work was published by all the leading magazines of the day.

In the mid 1970s Stewart closed his photography studio and moved back to Europe where he began to concentrate on his own images. He re-discovered his love of still-life and focused his energy on everyday objects: watering cans, rusty tools, vegetables, flowers, nudes and draperies were a few of his obsessions. Although he worked wherever he found his subjects, he favoured the studio with its set space and its controllable light.

These images show Stewart's photographs to be classical and connected to the tradition of still-life, yet they are also imbued with an atmosphere and a power of their own which hints at the skill which created them. They are photographs full of tension despite their stillness and manage to transmit so much through the simplest of subject matters!

The Fresson Process

To help him in his quest to 'create' photographs rather than 'take' them, Stewart often used a 19th century process of making photographic prints known as Charcoal Printing. It is still practiced in Paris by the descendants of the inventor Theodore-Henri Fresson and uses pigments rather than silver salts which, according to Stewart, "allow for deep, powerful blacks and a kind of sensuality unknown in conventional painting."

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Tristan Hoare was based in Notting Hill at Lichfield Studios from 2009 to 2014. In September 2016, Tristan Hoare opened its new premises at Six Fitzroy Square. Tristan Hoare represents both emerging and established contemporary artists.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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