

Tif Hunter

LONDON
MESSUMS
WILTSHIRE





Tif Hunter

Alchemy is a word that summarises very well Tintypes. Aside from the labyrinthine process of chemical reactions, there is also the context of a base material turned into something noble, the image is etched at a cellular level into silver halide.

Like alchemy, tintypes are something of a philosophical pursuit for Tif Hunter. He had already mastered commercial photography in the run up to and into the Digital Age, working on some of the most celebrated advertising campaigns in that period. In a sense he really didn't have to do this.

But the inquiring mind is insatiable and much like the Alchemists of the 19th Century into which Tintype – or Ferrotype to give it its ancestral name - was born, Tif has continued to adapt and develop the techniques required to master this means of capturing an image.

The images themselves are beautiful, that much is immediately apparent and expected from Tif's work, but what attracted me to these pieces in particular was their sculptural quality. For me these works are hugely appealing because they look – and to a degree are – sculptural objects. The monochromatic tone heightens the sense of volume and the narrow point of focus lends a very human eye centric view point to its depiction. Like our eyes the objects are seen in a narrow plane of vision. They are also sculptural objects themselves. Each plate is visibly held into a frame with metal clamps, they have on them the marks of their production process, the strap-lines to the corners to hold the plate in place and the marks of the maker as he holds the wet plate in the edges of his hand to carry it to and from the camera. They are unique objects, which in the context of image production, manipulation and multiplication means something too.

For this exhibition and sale we selected the ten stand out works. We have also chosen to include two of the first works he has completed on a larger format plate. These will be difficult to perceive immediately online, so it is worth thinking for a moment (with a ruler in hand) about the images themselves and then back to the process of their production to think about how. Because to create these works requires a new (19th Century) lens, which was the starting point and then building an adjustable wooden frame and then the rehearsed choreography of movements to take plate to camera needs to be entirely re-thought.

It says much to the inquiring nature of Tif's mind that he has pursued these images and sought, like his hero the American Edward Weston, to assimilate detail unimaginable to the human eye.

Johnny Messum



This is a PDF catalogue with works available for sale directly online or by contacting the gallery. All works are priced including framing and VAT.
Contact: enquiries@messumslondon.com



Two Fish
Tintype
21 x 26cm
£1,850





Spoons

Tintype

25 x 20cm

£1,850



Horse Skull

Tintype
35 x 43cm
£2,850

Horseshoe Crab

Tintype

25 x 20cm

£1,850



Lion Skull

Tintype
43 x 35cm
£2,850



Ostrich Egg

Tintype

25 x 20cm

£1,850



Romanesco
Tin type
20 x 25cm
£1,850





Seven Gin Bottles

2019

Tintype

20 x 25cm

£1,850

Two Eggs
Tintype
25 x 20cm
£1,850



Two Feathers

Tintype

25 x 20cm

£1,850





Four Eggs

Tintype
25 x 20cm
£1,850

Wheatsheaf

Tintype

25 x 20cm

£1,850



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