

PAN

AMSTERDAM

PER VAN DER HORST GALLERY



Chtysaora fuscescens

Platinum print

THE PLATINUM PRINT: THE MOST NOBLE PRINT

For people who collect photographs, platinum prints are known for their beauty, gracefulness, archival

stability and unique, one-of-a-kind print statement. Made from the salts of platinum, these prints are also

called “platinotypes” or “platinum” prints.

Platinum is a noble metal on the Periodic Table and are resistant to oxidation. The platinum salt emulsion is

imbedded into the fiber of the paper during the printing process.

As with most historical photographic processes, a platinum print is made by placing the negative

and

emulsion-coated paper in direct contact. Platinum prints have a different “look ” from silver gelatin or digital

prints.

All platinum prints have a matte, not glossy surface, because the sensitizer is absorbed into the paper

rather than sitting on the surface. A platinum print also has a more gradual tonal change from black to

white. To the eye accustomed to the punch of a silver gelatin print, a platinum print will often feel “softer” or

lower in contrast. In reality there are actually more steps between pure black and pure white in platinum

prints than in a silver gelatin print. This contributes to the deeper, richer feeling you experience when

looking at these prints.

Jan C Schlegel’s platinum prints are made from hand-mixed and hand-coated emulsions. These sensitizers

are mixed just prior to use, coated on the paper with a brush. Once dry, a negative is placed in directcontact with the paper, and then exposed to sunlight or ultraviolet light. Exposure to the light source takes

an hour or more, depending on the density and contrast of the negative.

The image tone of a platinum print can vary in color. These prints can range from a cool, slightly purple

black to split tones of brown and warm black, to a very warm brown. The proportions of the different

components in the emulsion, choice of developers and the temperature of the developer control the final

color.

The platinum prints of the series are double layered like Irving Penn did it for some of his iconic images. To

increase tonality and depth I also added in some of my images as a second component to the sensitizer

some Iridium which makes the picture even more noble and creates more richness in the mid tones.

As these emulsions are mixed and coated by hand no two prints are exactly alike and become unique art

pieces.