



CONTRAST

15th March - 2nd April 2016



Leo Bieber, MARTINA, Edition of 5, signed and numbered by the artist,
Metallic C Type Print, 30 x 40 cm.

Fiumano Projects and Orion Contemporary are delighted to present CONTRAST: Leo Bieber & Nicholas Hopkins. This exhibition will focus on five photographic works by each artist; exploring the contrast within and between their work.

CONTRAST: the state of being strikingly different from something else in juxtaposition or close association.

Leo Bieber is a London based professional Jewelry Photographer, specialising in creative still life, lifestyle and advertising campaigns. His unceasing love and enthrallment with light and shadow takes his artistic work into a dimension far removed from his every day commissions, driving the contrast between shade and light to the forefront. Leo's photographs are conscientiously orchestrated, not just in their composition but also in the effects of ambient light, the poses of his anonymous figures and the abstract shapes they create. The resulting stills are not 'moments in time' they are timeless moments; an almost ethereal space we are invited into.

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Nicholas Hopkins, BROOKLYN BRIDGE, 6 DECEMBER, 2007, Edition of 5, signed and numbered by the artist, Gelatin Silver Print on Ilford IV FB fibre, 50.8 by 61cm.

Nicholas Hopkins has for the past twenty years travelled extensively, focusing his viewfinder on realities that often escapes the eye. In contrast to Leo, Nicholas' work specifically captures an instant, an everyday moment frozen in time, inviting us to perhaps consider similar, self-observed, situations. In his cityscapes, the busy urban fabric becomes a distillation of time, a silent moment, a space within the hustle and bustle of ordinary life. Nicholas uses little equipment, just a simple mechanical camera (35mm range finder) with a standard lens. Each photograph is captured handheld and in natural light.

CONTRAST: The range of optical density and tone on a photographic negative or print.

Whilst the *modus operandi* of the two artists is particular to their respective practices the focus on contrast remains fundamental. Leo uses manipulated light to create almost surreal interior scenes, the body of the subject becomes a reflection of the artist and his practice. Nicholas employs varied weather conditions to bring out the textures of his subject matter, either profiting from clear sharp days to maximize details and contrast, or, especially in cityscapes, using rain and water to allow reflections shine off of the tarmac or off cars or trains.