



# *Shedding Light on Nature*

Allan Forsyth tells  
Jade Price about his  
beautiful exhibition  
portfolio *Vivid Light*,  
and how he sees  
nature through a  
detailed spectrum



A certain light

A fan of working with light to reveal the true nature of his subjects, Allan Forsyth has produced a number of pieces that together make up the beautiful and intensely coloured exhibition *Vivid Light*.

Allan's focus with this exhibition was on displaying the surreal side of nature. "The idea was to collate a series of works with very different techniques that run through the exhibition based on surreal portraits of nature," he says.

But such detailed portraits require some serious kit. Interestingly Allan switched between digital and film to produce his masterpieces. "I use a real mixture of kit," says Allan. "For the motion lenticular *Butterfly Tranquilliser* I used a Nikon D800 with a 105mm Micro f/2.8, and a 50mm f/1.4 lens for the motion lenticular *Candle a Certain Light*. For the photograms I just used processing trays, Ilford 20 x 24 Multigrade paper for the black and whites and Fuji RA4 20 x 24 paper and chemicals for the colour photograms."

Shooting under water, getting the lighting right and capturing it all was no easy feat, as Allan discovered, but he relaxed in the knowledge that post production would always be a saving grace. "The florals always need a lot of cleaning up, spotting out dirt, colour balance, levels and the blacks have to be one hundred per cent before the images can go to print. As for the lenticulars, all the frames shot have to be sequenced to give the image the most natural look." This was something Allan found particularly difficult: "I would say the motion lenticulars were the most difficult part of the whole project. A lot of time was spent getting them right – there were a lot of unforeseen problems that I had to solve. I hope that making the next series will be a much smoother process!"

Allan explains that the series as a whole conveys his utter fascination for the natural world: "Each of the works, although they may be executed differently, all grow from the inspiration of nature and my constant fascination for interpreting it in different ways." With so many techniques, levels and layers to the project, can Allan pick a favourite part? "For me the photograms were my favourite," he admits. "They are such a very natural way of making pictures. You're in the darkroom with your music producing these somewhat unpredictable images."

Music is just one of the many things that inspires Allan to produce such beautiful images. "I feel it in nature, music and art," he says, detailing his influences. "The pictorial photography from the turn of the 20th century is just beautiful. I'm also inspired by the work of light artist James Turrell and I love to create images that are distinctively my own."

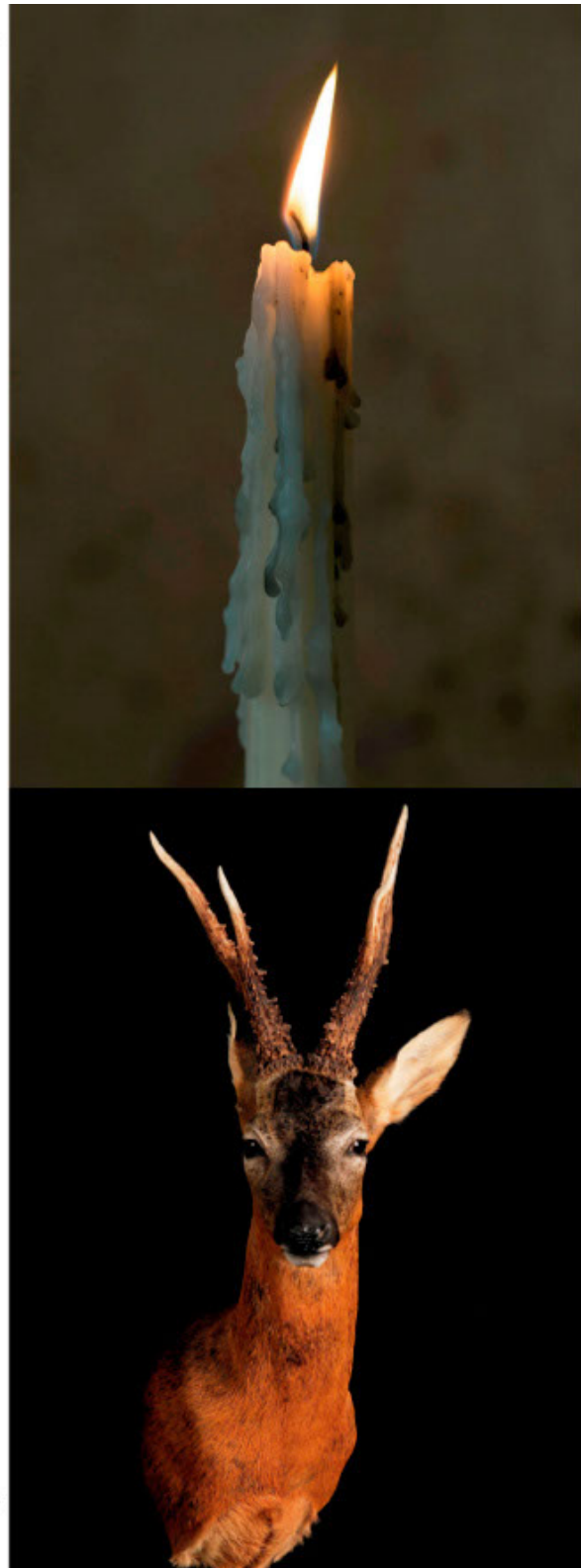
Forcing Allan to pick a particular image as his favourite he says: "The 3D lenticular *Pride and Glory*, Roe Buck, a very iconic subject matter, with real depth and presence and a people's favourite."

But working with different lighting, film and digital and shooting under water has led to a lot of trial and error for Allan, so what would he do differently? "Just to improve on the techniques I've been using," he says, "and remember to take more time off to breathe. Note to self: buy a 1000x Pro Flash Card!"

Sticking with the lenticular and the surreal, Allan has some set plans for the future of his work: "I am currently working on new ideas for lenticular and abstract pieces for forthcoming shows in London, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, New York and Berlin. I'm also working on building a new home studio." >>

[www.allanforsyth.com](http://www.allanforsyth.com)

*Pride and Glory* Roe Buck





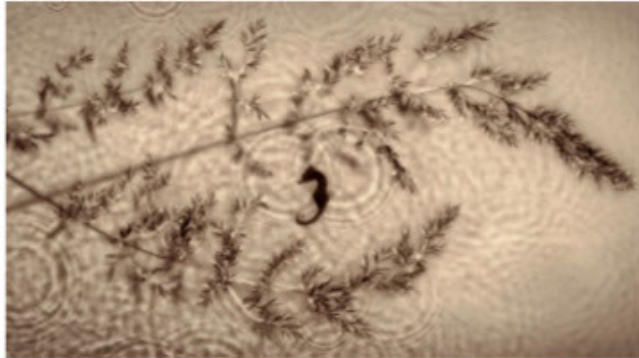
Pride and Glory Macaw



Rose II



Fade into Light VI



Tranquilizer



Allan Forsyth is an artist who explores a breadth of themes that is reflected in the range of techniques he employs - analogue and digital exposures taken by the artist exist in his work, alongside computer generated imagery, photograms, and photographic collages from historic magazines and vintage postcards.

Born in the Highlands of Scotland, Forsyth's heritage conveys his love of the drama of nature to his work, his efforts to expand the beauty of natural forms that we sometimes overlook in everyday life showing an extra dimension in his work.

His imagery complements some of the most dynamic of interiors worldwide and his work has been exhibited and collected internationally. He lives and works in London. **[PM]**



Fade into Light VII



Fade into Light IV