

Liquid Assets

Abstract artist Chris Parks captures light, movement and depth in a totally unique way.

Looking at Chris Parks' stunning images that carry evocative titles such as "Hot Froth" and "Poseidon's Static," it will come as little surprise that the artist also works on special effects in Hollywood. Only recently has he finished working on the forthcoming Hollywood film "The Fountain" starring Rachel Weisz and Hugh Jackman. He has also produced commercials for companies such as Gordon's Gin and Bupa.

But these images have a special quality all of their own. Chris creates an ethereal world through his dynamic fluid paintings that capture light, movement and depth in a totally unique way. Using mixed media in liquids, he makes moving fluid paintings, which continually change and develop over time and are frozen at a particular moment in time through the use of photography.

All the paintings are naturally occurring events that Chris creates in his studio using organic ingredients. Nothing is digitally manipulated in any way; all colours are visible at the time of capturing the image. Organic particles are used to add a natural randomness to the flow and feel of the images. The paintings only exist for a moment before they evolve into something different.

"Having studied Engineering at Imperial College and then Design at the Royal College of Art, much of my professional life has been concerned with the oceans, film and photograph," says Chris. The fluid paintings that he creates are both inspired by (and draw on) the movements and dynamics that he has discovered whilst filming some of the smallest organisms that inhabit the oceans. It is this rare >

Tender Constraint series



The Valkyrie's Return

> combination of engineer, artist and photographer, together with his experiences under the sea, that have enabled Chris to produce work that is not only created in a way that is totally unique, but which is also unparalleled in its fluidity, movement and subtlety.

The success of each fluid painting depends on many factors; the different mediums used and how they interact with each other, together with lighting, temperature control and air currents. Each simple dust particle plays a part in the success or failure of a painting.

Each fluid painting may take 24 hours or

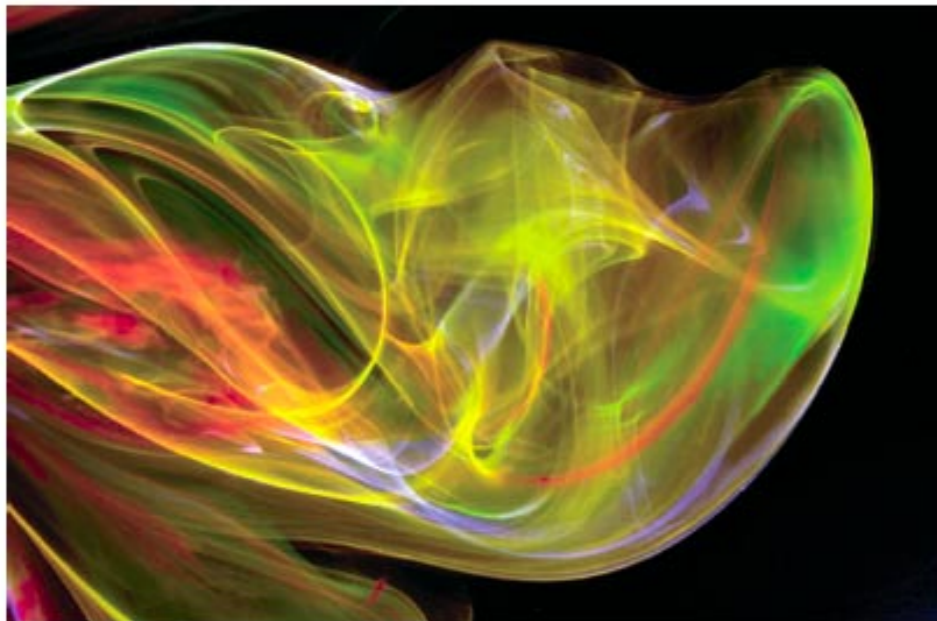
more to develop or it might happen instantly; therefore Chris has to consistently monitor the events taking place. "Sometimes nothing will happen for hours and then suddenly it will all come together. Patience plays a large part in the process and, as it is a naturally occurring event; you can't hurry the process up or even slow it down if it happens too fast. Some of the fluid paintings have a lifetime of 30 seconds or less, so it is impossible to reproduce a picture exactly, even if I use all the same ingredients and techniques that I used in an earlier painting", says Chris.

Of course, some paintings have been the

result of chance and, following the first occurrence, it has sometimes been several years before being able to get anywhere near it again. Such randomness makes the images all the more unique.

"Fluid Perspectives" – a special Art Exhibition by Chris Parks is showing at Henley Exhibition Centre, Henley-on-Thames, UK, 14th-20th May. More of his work will be on show at this year's Henley Regatta and the Henley Festival.

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Cool Waters II

Muybridge VI