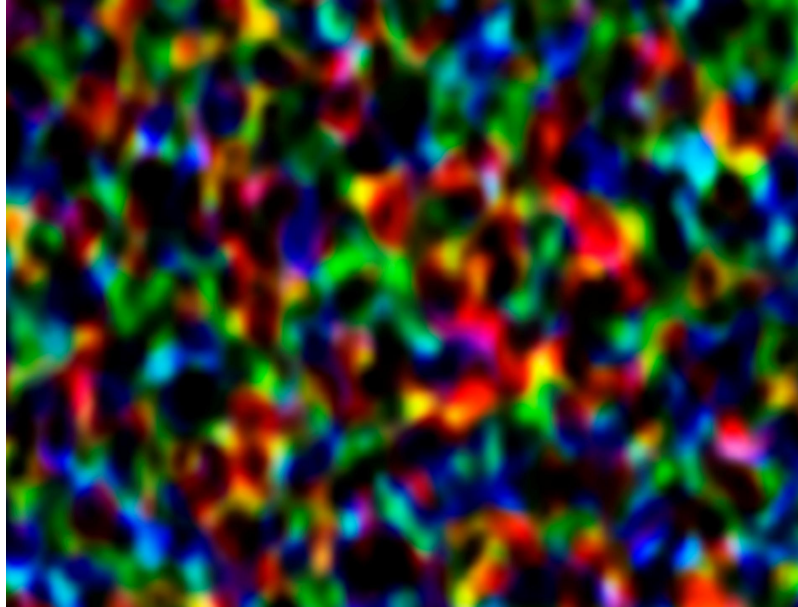


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PAUL GRAHAM



FILMS

21 APRIL – 4 JUNE 2011

Paul Graham has always challenged his medium, working with its very nature, its dependence on light, its recognition of detail, its capacity to document of the moment. He has always sought the telling trace hinting at the broader picture, leaving out as much as he puts in. In this new body of work, however, he has addressed the material itself, the stuff that gave birth to the themes and series that measure out his extraordinary career.

While examining his work of the past 30 years for the major survey exhibition arriving at the Whitechapel Gallery this month, **Graham** became enraptured with the base material of his craft and began to reflect upon the physical substance with which his images were made. Scanning the negatives for the exhibition, he began also to scan the blank film ends and unexposed frames from each body of work. What **Graham** gathered in the process he saw as a ‘negative retrospective’ of his practice. These luscious and beguiling abstract images are nothing more than greatly enlarged images of raw film emulsion, the colour dye clouds formed in the exposure and development of film. Kodacolor, Fujicolor, Tri-X; Ektacolor, Kodachrome – all have gone for good or are fading fast. So here is a homage to the history of film photography, a great romance that is nearly over, a farewell to its magic and its supremacy as the art medium of the 20th century, a trick of science, conjured out of light and crystal. This probing of the hidden beauty of each and every emulsion parallels the wonder of seeing the photographic image emerge in the darkroom; out of uninspiring snippets of celluloid a stunning aurora of images come to life.

For this exhibition these images, **FILMS**, are presented small and jewel-like, framed in a classic manner that reflects both their true vintage associations and endows them with the respect that their ‘parents’ truly deserve.

FILMS, a book of this new series of work, published by MACK, is now available, £30

PAUL GRAHAM: Photographs 1981-2006 is at the Whitechapel Gallery from 20 April to 19 June 2011

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PRESS IMAGES AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS, PLEASE CONTACT ANNA SMITH AT THE GALLERY: ANNA@ANTHONYREYNOLDS.COM TEL: +44 207 439 2201