

# Max Maxwell

## PROTEAN

8 July - 3 September 2022

No 20

Arts



Proteus Collection (2022),  
Mixed media on aluminium, 20 x 20 cm

No 20 Arts  
20 Cross Street  
London N1 2BG

*PROTEAN*. A solo exhibition of new works by Max Maxwell. Four years after his last solo show at No 20 Arts, the exhibition presents an exciting continuation of Maxwell's central interests: materiality, transformation and alchemy.

The title, '*PROTEAN*' stems from the prophetic shape-shifting figure from Greek mythology Proteus, as it encapsulates the idea of changeable shape and form. Maxwell has long held an interest in transmutation, as explored through his work with metals, predominantly copper.

This exhibition brings together painting, sculpture, video, and performance to explore these ideas. Maxwell works with raw materials such as copper, metal leaf, paint, and various chemicals to create works that explore material change. From a pristine metal sheet, he will create deeply textured landscapes; explorations of colour, space, and place. In some, an underlying image appears through photographic transfer, depicting the forests of Bali or temples of Angkor Wat. Others are more abstract and reference the process of oxidation with their extensive use of verdigris blue.

This opening evening of the exhibition begins with a *Prologue*, a dance performance: the figure of a newborn, initially curled into a cocoon and covered in plaster, is drawn from its shelter and breaks free from the shell. Remnants of this plaster will remain in the gallery throughout the duration of the show, a spatial and visual reminder of the performance.

## About Max Maxwell

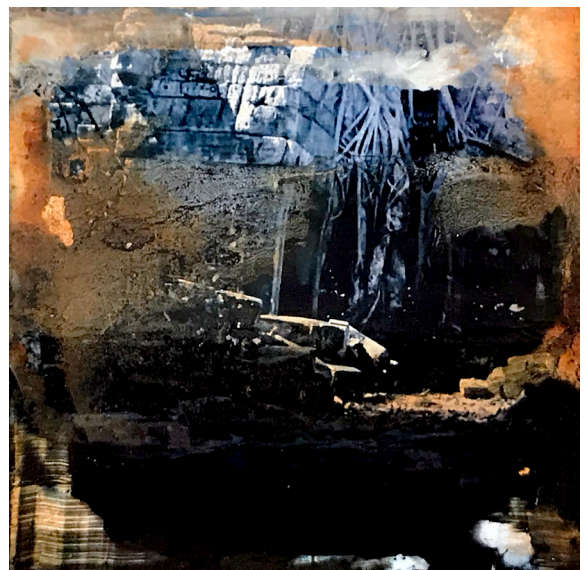
Max Maxwell's multidisciplinary artistic career began as a creative assistant to Brian Eno. During this time, Max oversaw the lighting and set designs for a series of live musical performances, subsequently developing an interest in light projections and sculptural forms. A series of projects followed with Maxwell creating concepts for music videos, contemporary dance, exhibitions and site specific installations for a diverse range of clients including Amnesty International. His experimenting with the transformation of metals began in 1995, favouring the process of electrolysis to carefully manipulate and alter the materiality of his subject matter. This paired well with Max's interest in video installations, which he uses to capture the fine details of chemical reactions unseen by the naked eye.



Maxwell's work has been exhibited internationally in group and solo shows, and also selected for the Cannes Film Festival in 2011. He has designed large public sculptures and his paintings have been commissioned for institutions and corporate clients including Barclays Wealth, Swiss Re, Daiwa & Wedlake Bell.



Valkyr I (2022), Mixed media on folded aluminium panel, 85 x 72.5 cm



Angkor Wat I (2022), Mixed media on aluminium, 20 x 20 cm

## About No 20 Arts

Opened in January 2017, No 20 Arts is a centre for contemporary arts. A multi-functional space, the gallery hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances and events that support emerging and established artists working across all media.

For more information and prices, please contact [info@no20arts.com](mailto:info@no20arts.com)

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+44 (0)207 226 9083  
[info@no20arts.com](mailto:info@no20arts.com)  
[no20arts.com](http://no20arts.com)