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Stones of Venice

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STONES OF VENICE

The purest and most thoughtful minds are those which love colour the most

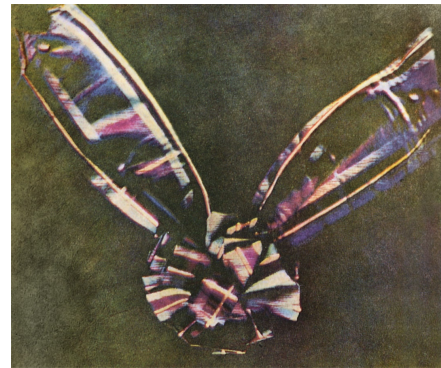
John Ruskin, The Stones of Venice (1852)



When Ruskin visited Venice in 1849, the city was already at risk from both natural forces and physical neglect. More than 150 years later the city is still at risk compounded by the demands of the tourist industry.

This series of photographs is a record of a first visit in 2009 to record the grandeur of the city- a continuation of a project following in the footsteps of Giovanni Battista Piranesi. This has been supplemented by a second visit in 2015 with imagery (approx 80 images) still to be processed. The imagery echoes the early works of Carlo Ponti taken in the 1850's while reflecting on the contemporary tourist gaze of dereliction and dilapidation chic.

The series is also an exercise in colour theory and science. Using a toy camera with 4 lenses, each lens is filtered using colour separation filters: red, green, blue and yellow.



James Clerk Maxwell, Thomas Sutton, 1861. Considered the first durable colour photographic image.

Shot on chromogenic B&W film, the 4 separate B&W images are then reconstructed in Photoshop channels to produce a primitive colour image in the same manner that the Scottish scientist-James Clerk Maxwell pioneered in 1861 to produce the first ever colour photograph. Owing to the small size of negative and poor quality lenses, the images have a unique aesthetic quality akin to early photographic processes and are produced in small sizes at present (roughly A5). At present the images are untitled.

New camera acquisitions are being adapted to allow for a larger negative to enable bigger enlargements for certain environments.

TECHNIQUE

→ Colour separated images from negative

↓ Toy colour separation camera





