

HUXLEY-PARLOUR

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Ruud van Empel
Floresta Negra

8 May - 1 June 2019

Huxley-Parlour Gallery, London are pleased to announce a third exhibition of works by Dutch artist Ruud van Empel. The exhibition will include 10 new large-scale colour photographs, including works from the artist's latest series *Floresta Negra* and *Voyage Pittoresque*, both shown in the UK for the first time.

Van Empel's style has evolved through an ongoing exploration of the tension between straight photography and digital technology. His images are digitally constructed from a composite of hundreds of diverse fragments taken from his own photographs. He digitally dissects and reconstructs photographs to create his works, as each leaf, stem, petal or branch are carefully collaged together to produce entirely new worlds.

Throughout his career, Ruud van Empel's work has embraced a range of art historical references including Dutch Old Masters, German Renaissance painters and early photomontage artists. His working methods blend the techniques of painting, photography and collage; forcing his viewers to not only confront the problematic truth value of photography, but their own conceptions of the constructed and the 'real'.

His latest works, from the series *Floresta Negra* and *Voyage Pittoresque*, present synthesised, hybrid worlds, where looming flowers and oversized leaves become the focus of the compositions. Works on display from the 2018 series *Floresta Negra*, take as their subject nocturnal forest scenes, eerily backlit by starlight or by glistening bioluminescence. *Voyage Pittoresque* presents bountiful and lush land or waterscapes that overwhelm with a variety of complex colour and form. Placing plants together that would not naturally coexist, van Empel also subtly alters the lighting and scale in his images in order to construct a variety of uncanny and impossible worlds.

Following in the romantic tradition, van Empel's highly-stylised digital collages seek out the sublime, the subjective and stirring experience of the natural world, and therefore engage with a contemporary disenchantment with urban and technological realities.

Ruud van Empel was born in Breda, The Netherlands, in 1958. Van Empel's work has been exhibited extensively and his work is held in the collections of several international galleries including MoPA Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, The Rijks Museum, Amsterdam and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel.

For more information and images please contact
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Ruud van Empel, *Floresta Negra* #5, 2018