

INFORMATION THAT MIGHT HELP PREPARE A PRESS RELEASE

John Neville Cohen

A Visionary in Photography John Neville Cohen stands as a paragon of photographic artistry, his lens capturing more than mere images—it captures imagination. With a pioneering spirit, Cohen's 'Spirit of Spring' remains an emblematic piece, showcasing his 'painting with light' technique. This method, a blend of innovation and tradition, forges a visual symphony from a portrait transparency and a tulip's negative image on Kodachrome film.

Innovation Beyond the Darkroom

Cohen's artistry flourished in an era before digital dominance. His hands crafted wonders with light and film, not pixels. The 1960s bore witness to his ingenuity, as he manipulated Kodachrome color reversal film to birth images that defied conventional photography, without the crutch of digital software, or darkroom alchemy.

A Celebrated Exhibitionist

With over 20 solo exhibitions gracing metropolises like New York, London, and Edinburgh, Cohen's work has captivated audiences worldwide. His unique approach to projection photography—capturing projected images in unconventional ways—continues to resonate with art lovers, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries.

The Essence of Cohen's Craft

At its core, John Neville Cohen's art is a dance of light and form, a testament to the power of pure photography and narrative. His use of projectors, crystals, and reflections adds depth and complexity to his work, challenging perceptions and inviting viewers to partake in his sophisticated visual feast.

An Undiscovered Gem

Despite the whims of search algorithms, Cohen's complete works remain a treasure trove for those who seek the enchanting interplay of light and shadow. His art, a hidden gem, awaits discovery by connoisseurs of photographic magic.

A Renaissance Man

John Neville Cohen is not merely a photographer; he is a renaissance man. His passions span from the art of projection photography to the realms of Asian antiquities and classic Jensen automobiles. His literary contributions include 'The History of Jacey Cinemas,' 'The Cohen Collection' of Asian art, and a unique philatelic album for young collectors.

Invitation to Explore

We invite you to delve into the world of John Neville Cohen, where photography transcends its bounds and becomes a canvas of wonder. For further insights and to view his acclaimed works, please download the accompanying PDF.

Note: This press release is a compilation of various sources and is presented in the third person to maintain the integrity of the original quotations and perspectives.

Discover the Special Art of John Neville Cohen

John Neville Cohen is an artist of light, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. His creations are not mere photographs; they are statements of fantasy and beauty that challenge the viewer to see beyond reality.

As Cohen himself articulates, *"The artist begins with a blank canvas, but the photographer's canvas is always full."* It is within this full canvas that Cohen weaves his magic, distinguishing his art with three key attributes:

- 1. Invention:** Cohen's 'painting with light' technique, developed in the early 1960s, revolutionized photography without the aid of computers or darkroom processes, earning him international acclaim.
- 2. Purity:** His commitment to pure photographic techniques set his work apart, producing Kodachrome transparencies that left peers and experts in awe.
- 3. Fantasy:** Cohen's ability to craft fantasy from reality offers a fresh perspective, making his mesmerizing art a unique and valuable addition to the world of photography.

For a glimpse into the remarkable world of John Neville Cohen, peruse the press cuttings and letters that attest to his genius.

This press release aims to encapsulate the essence of John Neville Cohen's work and his contribution to the art of photography. It's designed to be informative, engaging, and reflective of Cohen's unique place in the art world. John Neville Cohen's remarkable photography is a canvas painted with curiosity, innovation, and a love for the extraordinary. His artistry transcends traditional photography, inspiring viewers with his unique and captivating approach.

A World First

Known for his iconic photography 'Spirit of Spring' created by using his own innovative technique of 'painting with light'. By blending a portrait transparency with a negative image of a red tulip on the same Kodachrome emulsion, he achieved a captivating and harmonious composition. The interplay of light and form in this work evokes a sense of magic and wonder, making it one of his most celebrated creations.

John's technique involves photographing projected images, but not necessarily onto a screen. His portfolio includes stunning photographs that evoke emotions and intrigue. His limited-edition prints resonate universally, appealing to all who appreciate the purity of this photographic technique.

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[Evidence - See Press Cuttings & Letters](#)

John Neville Cohen is really an artist who uses photography. Photographer's record reality and the best do that really well, but John creates amazing fantasy from reality! His beautiful pictures surprise, intrigue and make quite a statement!

The first time 'The London Salon Trophy', a much-coveted International award for artistic photography had ever been awarded for a colour photograph (*printed from a Kodachrome transparency*) was for 'Spirit of Spring' in 1967. John was not only the youngest salon member ever to have received it, but it was also the very first time a transparency positive and a negative, appeared on the same film emulsion. Although technically extraordinary, it is more importantly a very fine work of art.



Spirit of Spring

National Science and Media Museum Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1NQ

NSMM Research Library Book database. Reference: 770.05.COH

Author: Cohen, John Neville

Title: Painting With Light By Projection Photography: Pure Photography Using Light & Film,

Description: Essay and references to the pioneering technique developed by John Neville Cohen, which enabled the

creation of 'Spirit of Spring', the first ever Kodachrome transparency that had both a portrait and a negative image of a tulip, on the same emulsion.



Beauty is

John's discovery was based on simply photographing projected images that were not always projected on to a screen and the chosen screen often became the subject of the picture; John has photographed projected images on to a feather, a flower, a shell, a butterfly wing, and even on to the edges of the pages of a book!



Madam Butterfly



Preacher

He built up a collection of around 75 studies that led to over 20 One-Man Exhibitions of his photographs (*some sponsored by Kodak*) in New York, London, The Edinburgh Festival, and many other UK & USA Cities. At Photo Expo (*famous photographers were lucky to have 3 pictures included at 'Photo Expo 68'*) but a wall of over 60 pictures was devoted to John.

"..regarded as one of Britain's most original photographers" The Times.

"A woman's face was exquisitely metamorphosed with the cup of a yellow tulip - a Femme - Fleur Picasso might have perpetrated had he taken to photography"
Arts Revue.

A number of newspaper and photographic magazine articles were published and his art even attracted the attention of such famous names as Cecil Beaton C.B.E., Sir William Russell Flint R.A., Sir George F. Pollock Bt., M.A., and Lady Clementine Spencer Churchill amongst many others.

[Evidence - See Press Cuttings & Letters](#)



Flower Maiden



Sea Nymph's Mirror

John has openly explained that he often starts with an idea and then experiments with various images, but sometimes something unforeseen happened, that sends him down a totally fresh route to create a very different picture than the one he originally planned, often it has been these 'inspired accidents' that have since turned out to be his most valued artworks.

Recently a young art critic wrote *"John N. Cohen's artwork incorporates several genres--ready-made objects, digital photography, and Impressionist style of light painting - to create a striking and surreal effect that has a strong impact upon the viewer"*

Claudia Moscovici.

"Indeed, since the photographic image is made by the action of light, truth to light is truth to the medium of photography! All John Cohen's photographs are made, simply and solely, by the use of light. His magic is the magic of the luminous; his poetry is that of the chiaroscuro. The attractions of his work is all the greater for the purity of the photographic technique, and its appeal all the more universal for being couched in an imagery common to all men and intelligible to all".

Sir George F. Pollock Bt., M.A., F.R.P.S., F.R.S.A. (Past President of The Royal Photography Society).

NEWS

FROM **Kodak**



For Immediate Release

KODAK GRAND CENTRAL EXHIBIT
TO FEATURE WORK OF JOHN COHEN

An unusual collection of more than 60 color prints, made with an original, imaginative technique by John Cohen, will be shown at the Kodak Exhibit Center at Grand Central Station from May 20 to June 9. This will be the first showing of Mr. Cohen's work in the United States.

The only amateur photographer ever to be accorded the honor of an exhibit at Kodak House in London, Mr. Cohen works exclusively with a Kodak Retina Reflex III camera and Kodachrome II film. Of his work he says, "Generally speaking, colour photography catches and records the living scene ... However, the view I hold is that there must also be a place for imagination in photography and if (one is) not bound by reality there are exciting possibilities for introducing a more personal form of expression."

The result of this approach to photography is a series

(more)

EDITORIAL SERVICE BUREAU • EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, Rochester, N. Y. 14650

of memorable portraits, in which faces are superimposed on flowers, fabrics, sea shells, and even a butterfly. Although Mr. Cohen will rarely discuss the means by which he achieves his prints, he has explained that he attempts to utilize texture as an artist does.

The success of his technique can be measured by the total of seven one-man shows he has had in England over the past two years. In 1967, his picture "Spirit of Spring" was given the London Salon of Photography Trophy, one of the world's top photographic awards. A composition in yellow and brown, the girl's profile superimposed on a tulip won in competition with 3,000 other entries.

Mr. Cohen, who is director of publicity for the family firm of Jacey Cinemas, Ltd., Birmingham, England, intends, he says, to remain a photographic amateur.

Located on the main floor and east balcony of Grand Central Station, the Kodak Exhibit Center is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Admission is free.

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5/68

Kodak New York Press Release 1968

John started promoting his high-quality limited edition prints only since he retired and in a relatively short period of time, he has acquired quite a following on LinkedIn, Facebook, and at various other art sites on the Internet, like Flickr, where so many have chosen his pictures as 'favourites'.

"I love these, John. Can imagine them large scale in a white room - would look fantastic!" Rachel Glittenberg
Facebook

"Hi John, I am so pleased to have come across your page, your work is sensationally sophisticated and so softly

intense, you have a unique personal talent for expressing visually moments of being and emotional journeys, sincerest congratulations on your excellent artistic technique, xx you are such a talent John" Monica Martinelli-Richmond Facebook

"Stunning image! Your work is amazing! Your work is extraordinary and very inspirational!" emellin66 Flickr

"really beautiful and magical. love the composition."

Galerie-Morgenstern Flickr

With so much success in the 1960's one might well wonder why John is not by now far better known. There is a reason; John was involved in the family business, running an independent chain of specialist cinemas; he had become a director, having started as a projectionist, and was responsible for the 'front of house' publicity and he really enjoyed the business he was in. His photography in those days, even with all the success he had, was still simply his hobby!

Later with family commitments and so many more business demands, his photography was put aside. Although when the family business was sold, because of the impact of video and large rent increases, he set up and ran a commercial photographic and design studio. John also gave a number of lectures to various photographic societies, in the early days, explaining exactly how he achieved his results. His lectures were in great demand and he always had a good reception. Not only were most attending very enthusiastic, but even years later, hardly anyone has produced anything as interesting as his studies. John also made this information freely available on his website in his article titled 'The Magic Lantern'.



Roller

John is now well over 80 and is still currently creating pictures (*one of the latest is 'Roller'*). His pictures certainly cause interest, adding a bright new dimension to any wall. So sophisticated, always a talking point, appealing to all age groups.



Montmartre

One must not forget that John's reality photography is outstanding too (*as can be seen in 'Montmartre'*) and some of these are also published as limited-edition prints.

For serious art buyers and art lovers there are still some of the prints for sale. To buy an artwork by John, it is still possible to purchase a print, although they are limited to only 8 of each picture. Not yet one of the big names, but these pictures do have great investment potential and now is the best time for astute buyers to buy.

"Art Galleries refer to me as a photographer, but photographers refer to me as an Artist!"

John Neville Cohen.

Keywords: John Neville Cohen, interview, #projectionphotography #lightpainting #specialeffects #Kodachrome #photography #paintingwithlight #film #portraits #johnnevillecohen #analoguephotography #creativephotography #conceptual #surreal #dramatic #fantasy #expressionist #artisticphotography #visualarts Art, artworks, contemporary, impressionist, photographer, limited edition, painting with light, technique, for sale, pictures, Photo Expo, Kodak, Kodachrome,



WWW.JNCOHEN.NET
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For Much More About John: -

John Neville Cohen's web <https://www.jncohen.net/Limited-Edition-Prints/index.htm>

Reviews and Exhibitions <https://www.jncohen.net/Limited-Edition-Prints/Reviews.htm>

Sir George Pollock Introduction <https://www.jncohen.net/Limited-Edition-Prints/Introduction.htm>

YouTube John talks about 'Painting with Light' <https://www.youtube.com/user/jncohen40>

LinkedIn <https://es.linkedin.com/in/johnncohen>

Flickr https://www.flickr.com/photos/john_n_cohen/sets/72157623122863068/

Twitter <https://twitter.com/JohnNCohen>

Interviews: [Artpromotive Feb 2012](#) [Leap May 2012](#)

Facebook Fan Page <https://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Painting-With-Light/208903157734>

Fine Art America <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/john-neville-cohen.html>

John Cohen's websites: -

Asian Antiques, Photography and Classic Cars <https://www.jncohen.net>

Antique Reference: Japanese Netsuke, Inro, Chinese Snuff Bottles, Pendants, Jade <https://www.jncohen.com>

History of Jacey Cinemas Ltd and Joseph Cohen
<https://www.jncohen.net/JaceyGroup/JosephCohen.htm>

A Very Special Stamp Collecting Album
<https://www.jncohen.net/Stamp-Collecting/index.htm>

Classic Jensen Cars from the early 1960's
<https://www.jncohen.net/Jensen.htm>

Painting with Light <https://www.jncohen.net/Limited-Edition-Prints>

Selling Limited Edition Prints <https://www.artist-john-cohen.net>

John Neville Cohen's contact details <https://www.jncohen.net/Contact.htm>