

Symphony of the Sea (Rachel Carson's Love Letter) - Framed
Chloe McCarrick

£595



REF: 4099

Height: 22.8 cm (9")

Width: 18.5 cm (7.3")

Depth: 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Cyanotype, 3d papercut collage, handmade paper, 24-carat gold leaf

Inspiration

Inspired by one of the 20th century's most influential voices in literature and environmentalism, Rachel Carson. A visionary marine biologist, conservationist and author, she revolutionised the environmental movement with her compelling work.

Carson's eloquent writing combined scientific rigour with a deep sense of wonder for the environment, making her a powerful advocate for conservation. Carson's legacy endures as a champion of ecological awareness, sparking the modern environmental movement and inspiring ongoing action to protect the planet.

Best known for her groundbreaking sea trilogy-Under the Sea-Wind (1941), The Sea Around Us (1951), and The Edge of the Sea (1955)-Carson illuminated the intricate beauty and balance of marine ecosystems. Her vivid storytelling deepened our understanding of the ocean and helped lay the foundation for a new era of the modern environmental movement, inspiring a generation of future conservationists.

Technique

Symphony of the Sea (Rachel Carson's Love Letter) was created by constructing a hand-cut collage using female photographic portraiture, scientific specimen illustrations, photographs and illustrations of marine botanical materials, marine life, fish, corals and sharks. All these symbols are representative of her studies and passion for marine ecosystems- layered into the artwork. These elements serve as a reflection of Carson's connection to the sea and her tireless efforts to protect the environment. The combination of scientific and natural imagery highlights both her intellect and her reverence for the natural world.

After coating the handmade paper with light-sensitive chemistry, it is left to dry in a dark room. The large-scale negative is contact printed onto the paper by exposure to daylight (UV rays). The print is then processed by thoroughly washing in water to remove any unexposed solution. It can then be hung to dry, developing to full density Prussian blue after 24 hours.

Once dried, the pieces are cut out and mounted onto the base print to create a multi-layered, 3-dimensional collaged cyanotype and hand finished with 24-carat gold leaf. By going beyond the blue, I am creating a majestic modern aesthetic to this antiquarian photographic technique. I hand finish my pieces with precious and chemically treated metals to enhance the textural quality of the surface, revealing hidden details and creating an evolving luminous landscape. Allowing each separate element to support the others, not one overpowering the other, adding depth and uncovering the non perfect surface beauty below. Using naturally occurring chemicals, cotton and precious metals combined with the sun's rays and water is one of the purest forms of photosensitive image making that has stood the testament of time from its discovery in 1842.

Signed by the Artist.

'Own Art' Option Available - Contact the gallery for further information.