



PROTEAN

Max Maxwell

PROTEAN

Max Maxwell

PROTEAN
Max Maxwell

08/07/2022 - 03/09/2022

© All copyright held by the artist concerned

No 20 Arts
20 Cross Street
London N1 2BG
no20arts.com

Cover:
Detail of **Solitude I**, (2022), Mixed media, 100 x 200 cm

An aerial photograph of a coastal area, showing a road, buildings, and a body of water. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

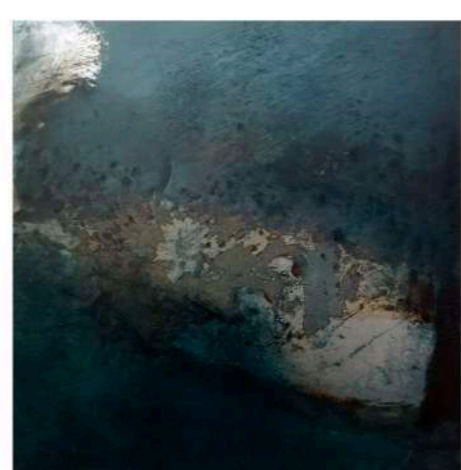
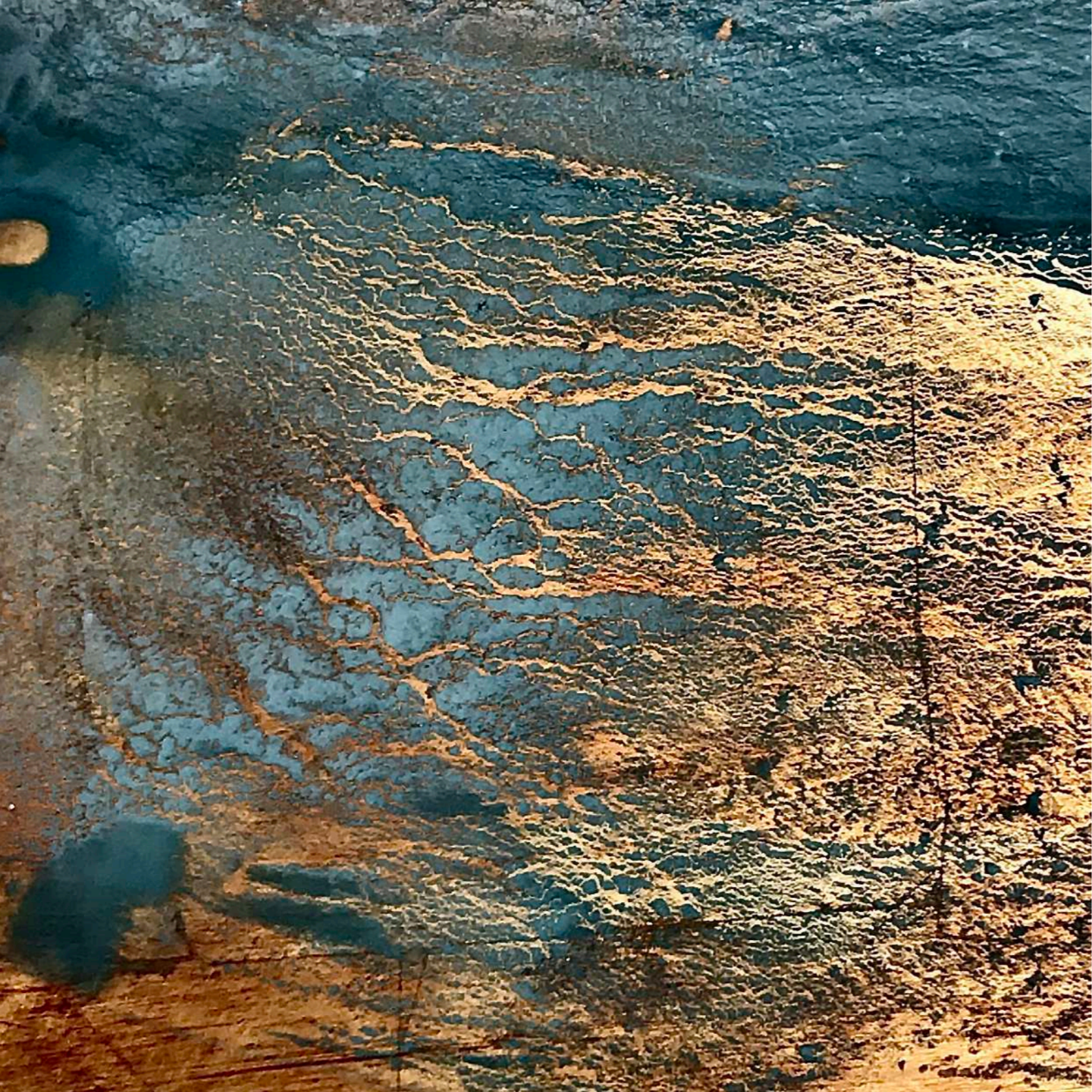
PROTEAN

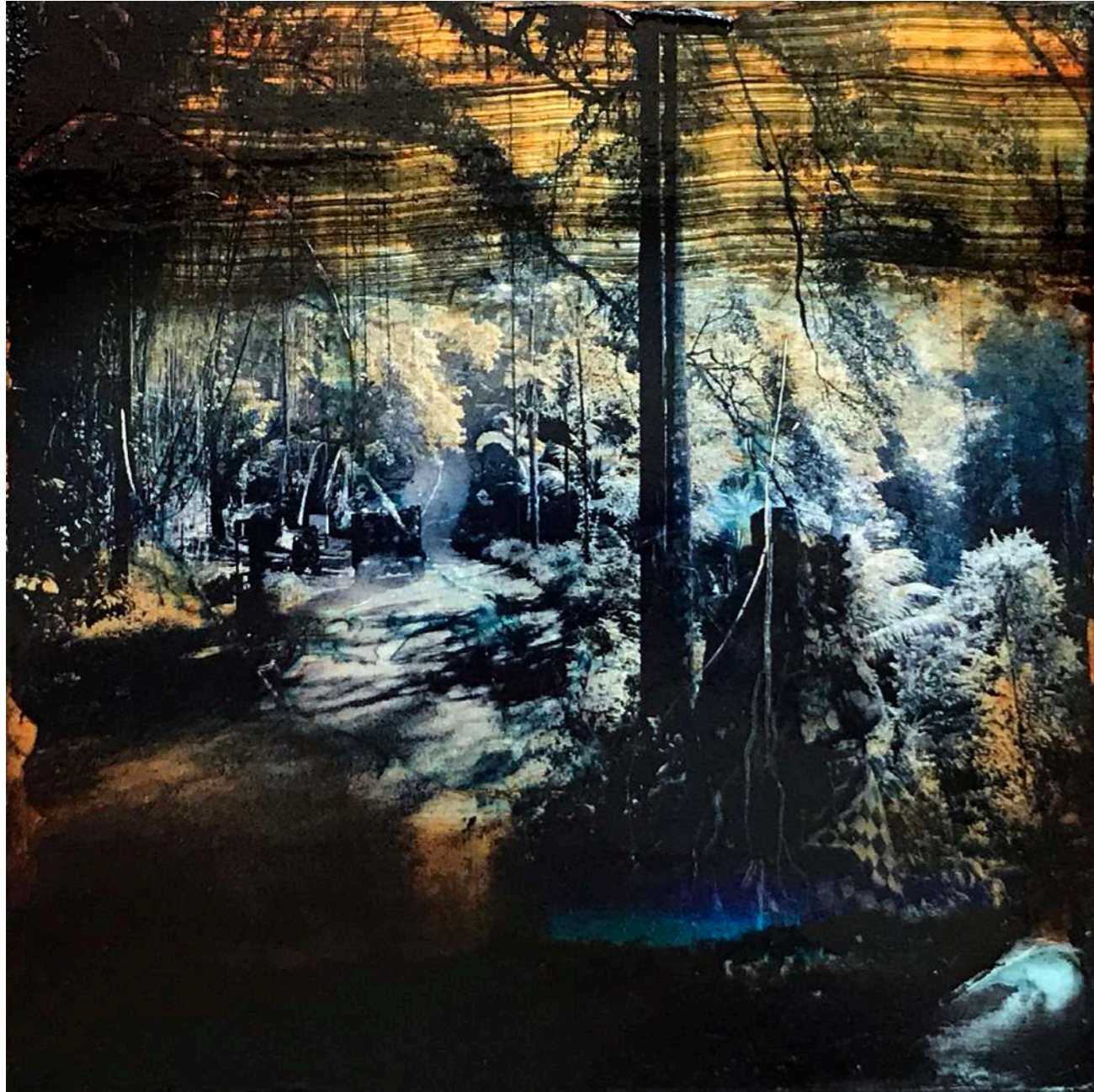
Max Maxwell

*As above ...
So Below*

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.

Next page from left:
Detail of **Emergence III**, (2022), Mixed media on aluminium sheet, 50 x 50 cm, detail of **Proteus collection** (2022), Mixed media on aluminium, 20 x 20 cm (each)





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



Bali II (2022), Mixed media on aluminium, 20 x 20 cm

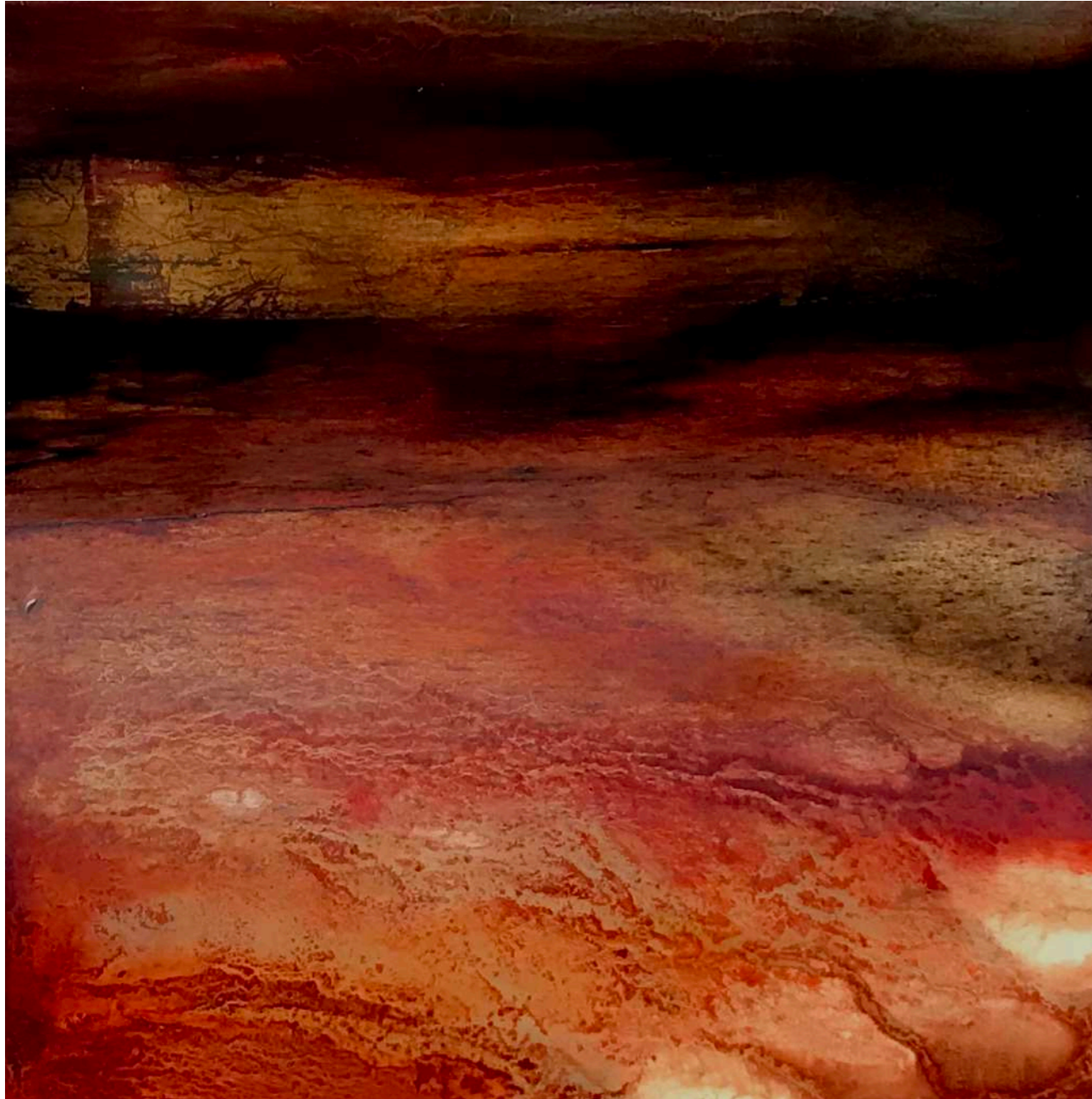
The title, 'PROTEAN' stems from the prophetic shape-shifting figure from Greek mythology Proteus, as it encapsulates the idea of changeable shape and form. Maxwell has long held an interest in transmutation, as explored through his work with metals, predominantly copper.

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. The work titled Proteus Collection brings together a vast selection of these, creating waves of copper and blue across the gallery wall.

Next page:
Detail of **Paradise Lost** (2009), Card, dimensions variable







Tumult II (2015), Mixed media on aluminium sheet, 50 x 50 cm

Taking the process of transformation a step further, in *Emergence*, Maxwell uses the technique of repousse, beating the copper over a textured surface, forcing it to take up the imprint of the three dimensional terrain that lies below. As suggested by the title, the artwork emerges the more it is worked upon, shaping itself through its process of change.

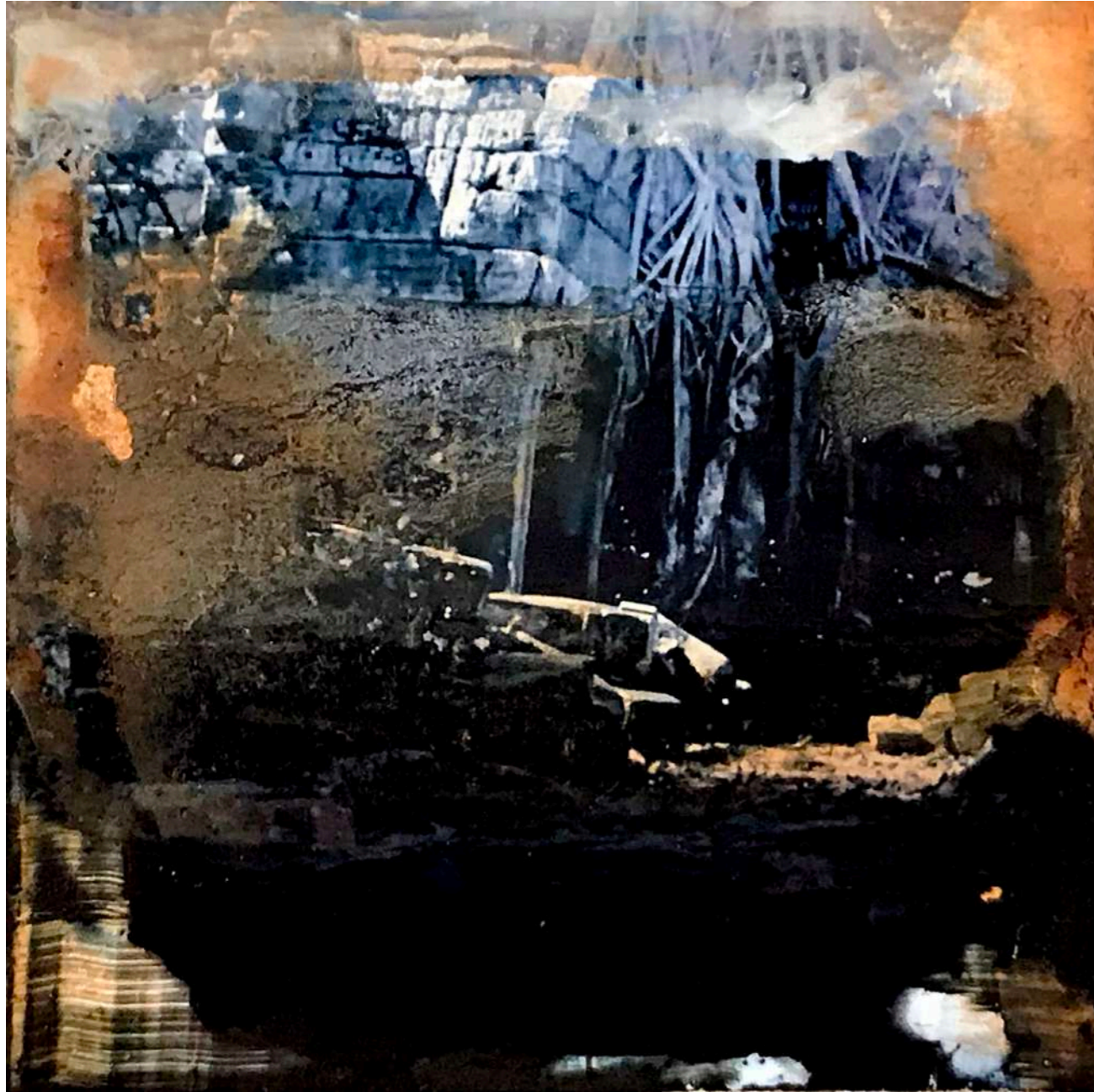
This opening evening of the exhibition begins with a Prologue, a dance performance: the figure of a newborn, initially curled into a cocoon and covered in plaster, is drawn from its shelter and breaks free from the shell. Remnants of this plaster will remain in the gallery throughout the duration of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

This interest in the preservation of history can also be seen in *Dissolution I and II*. Wax and lead have been poured into type trays, which were initially used for printing text. The wax and lead fill in these spaces, effectively preserving the space where text could be created, thus making their own dialogue. The interest in text comes through again in *Paradise Lost*, where Maxwell has utilised the first chapter of John Milton's epic poem, cutting the words from the card. The process of cutting with a laser, leaves the edges of each letter singed. These letters are arranged on the floor.

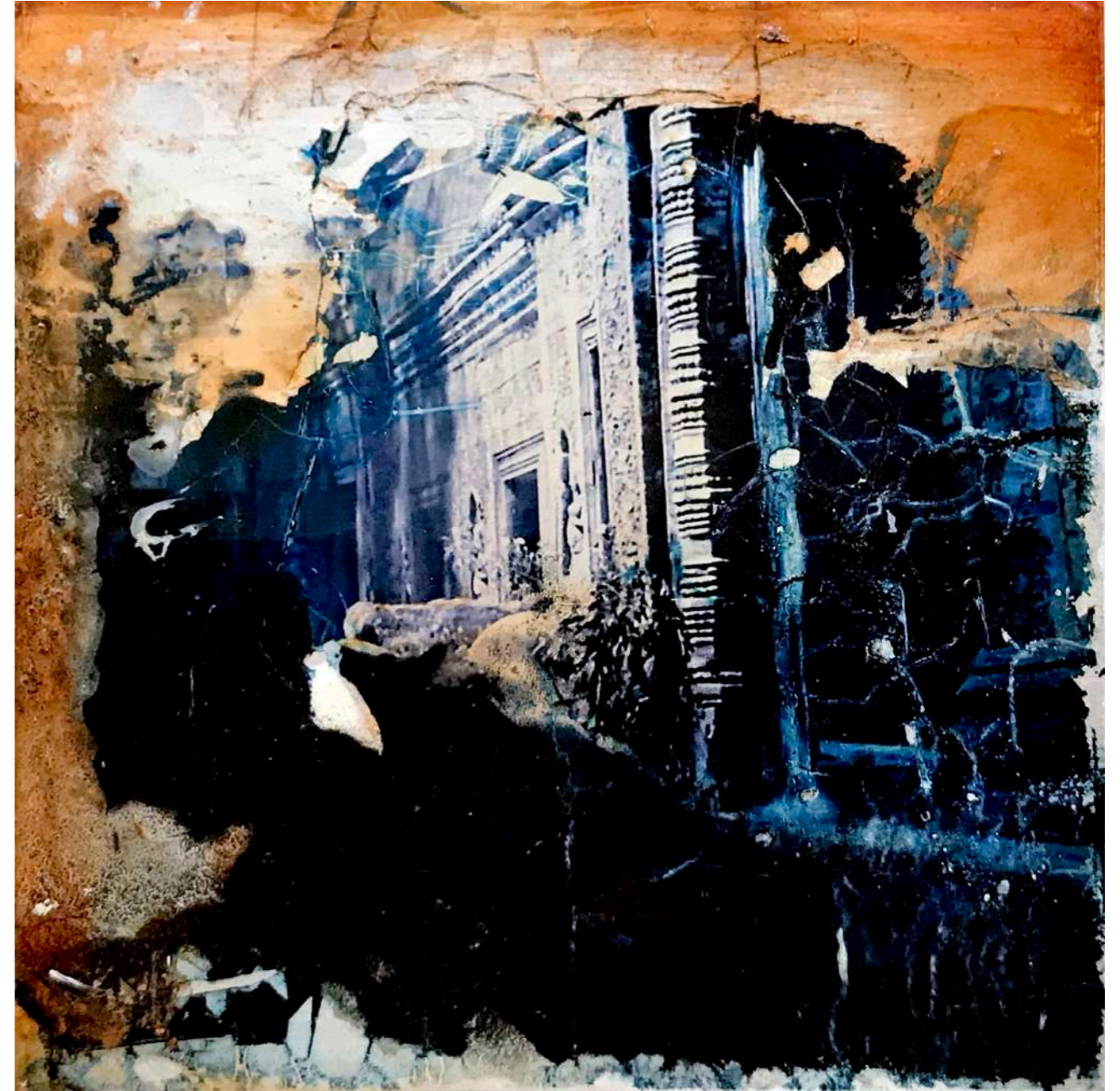
Next page:

Out of the blue (2014), Mixed media on aluminium, 25 x 50 cm





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



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

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.

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





Emergence (2022), Mixed media on beaten copper sheet, 30 x 30 cm



Prologue, Dance performance (2022)



Dissolution II (2009), Mixed media, 40 x 90 cm

Exhibition History Highlights

2021- 'LEMA x No 20 Arts', London, UK

2020 - 'SUMMER SHOW 2020', No 20 Arts, London, UK

2019 - 'LANDSCAPES', No 20 Arts, London, UK

2018 - 'DUALITY', No 20 Arts, London, UK
- 'SUMMER EXHIBITION', No 20 Arts, London, UK

2011 - 'Open Gallery', Open Prize Video Art, London, UK
- 'Gone with the Wind', Raven Row Gallery, London, UK

2009 - 'Al Hilo de la Memoria', Museo Pedro Gilabert, Spain
- 'Faultline', Bow Arts, London, UK

2008 - 'Unnatural histories', Bow Arts, London, UK
- 'Paradise Lost', St. Giles Cripplegate, London, UK

2008 - 'Positive Negative', St Bartholomew the Great, London, UK

Film Festivals

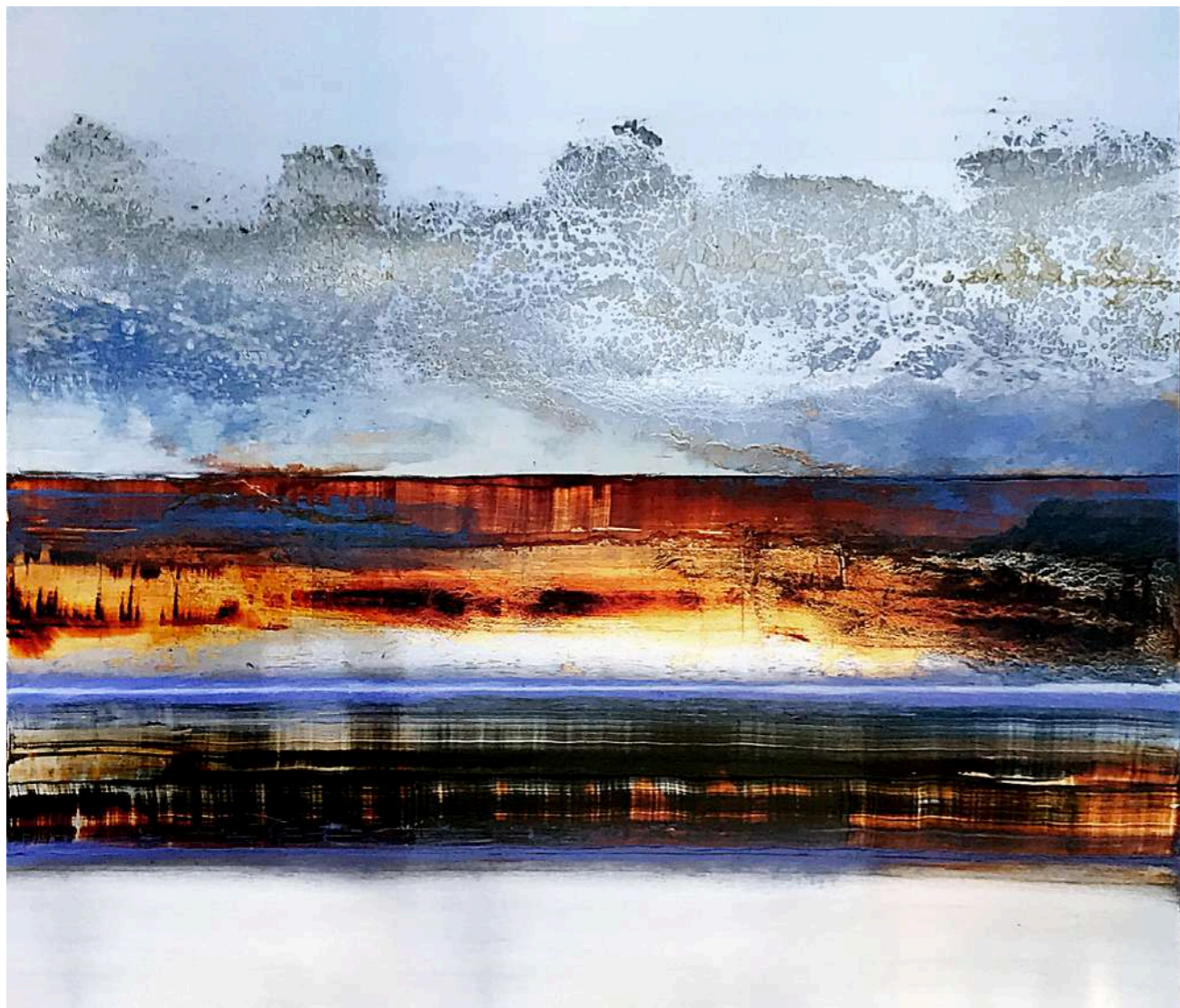
2017 - IWM Film Festival, London

2015 - Sao Paulo Film Festival, Brazil

2014 - Rio Film Festival, Brazil

2011 - Berlin Art Fair, Germany

2011 - Cannes Film Festival, France



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



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



The Artist would like to thank:

Lesya Tyminska @lesya.tym

Julia Sparkle @mxsparklemafia

Florencia Riverti @florriverti

Trinidad Prieto @triniprias

Dr. Mike Shipley

Philip Rudge

Max Maxwell @maxxart.co.uk

Dissolution II (2009), Mixed media, 40 x 90 cm



No 20

Arts