

PLATINUM PRINTING

Photographer Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946) called the platinum printing process “**the prince of all media**”: One of the **oldest, rarest, most refined, and stable** of all black & white photographic printing processes.

The technique consists in **coating specially made drawing paper with a light-sensitive emulsion containing platinum salts**. The paper is then carefully dried and exposed to UV light through one or more full size contact negatives. This is an **expensive and complicated procedure**, each print taking **many hours to complete**.

When compared to conventional black and white silver prints, platinum prints exhibit an **expanded tonal range, three-dimensionality, and a uniquely luminous, painterly quality**. Unlike silver prints, where the image is floating in a gelatin layer on top of the paper, a platinum image is **part of the fine paper on which it is printed**.

As well as their aesthetic quality, platinum prints are **among the most permanent objects produced by man**. The platinum metals are more stable than gold, and a platinum image, properly preserved, **can last thousands of years**.

In recent years, platinum printing has seen a renaissance thanks to a **revival of interest amongst fine art photographers and discerning collectors**. These platinum prints are the work of SALTO ULBEEK printers and publishers in Belgium.