

## Yola Monakhov Stockton 29<sup>th</sup> February - August 2016

Drawing on the cultural and political history of the image, **Yola Monakhov Stockton**'s work deals with notions of power and empathy and the limits of language and representation. In the photographs for her book *The Nature of Imitation* (Schilt Publishing, 2015) she examines living birds using large-format colour film and film manipulations, studio props, and sculptural techniques to consider the connection between a physical, living thing and a picture. In detailed photographs modelled on natural history drawings, the work strives to evoke the delicate experience of holding a bird by turning to traditions of landscape representation from Renaissance frescoes and tapestries, the early history of photography, and Modernist painting and sculpture. Mining her interest in art as dialogue with other systems of meaning, Yola collaborated with scientists, ecologists, and naturalists for access to their subjects, wild birds caught for banding and release and those captive in labs, and to institute a parallel methodology for their use. The work engages both scientific and aesthetic discourses, addressing the classical problems of mimesis, the ethics of control over nature and pictorial subject, and the conditions of photography.

Elizabeth Biondi, in her essay accompanying Yola's book, calls Yola's bird photographs "exploring and manipulating images without any loss of authenticity." Monakhov Stockton's background as a photojournalist with an MA in Italian literature eventually led her to an MFA at Columbia, two years after being wounded while covering an Israeli Palestinian conflict in the West Bank. She expressed her doubts about the validity of the documentary aesthetic, confessing in an online interview "the documentary genre in photography has long had a troubled, or perhaps undefined, relationship to its subject." Biondi likens Monakhov Stockton's transformation to that of a painter's ability to control the subject: "In the studio an artist is free to take creativity wherever it leads. This is the freedom Yola wanted..."

All prices are inclusive of VAT, correct as of August 2016. To purchase a framed print there is an additional cost of €100.



Mantle. Harris hawk. Pleasantville, New York, 2011.

Archival pigment print Size: 40 x 50 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



Prussian Blue. White-crowned parrot. Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Turrialba, Costa Rica, 2012.

Archival pigment print Size: 40 x 50 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100





Untitled. Gyr falcon. Pleasantville, New York, 2011.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



An ongoing text. Northern cardinal. Manomet, Massachusetts, 2011.

Archival pigment print Size: 40 x 50 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



But not for you, my love. Barred Owl. Environmental Center, Pace University, Pleasantville, New York, 2011.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 3/9 € 3.100



Blue China. Northern cardinal. Manomet, Massachusetts, 2011.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 3/9 € 3.100



White Sea. Gray cathird. Manomet, Massachusetts, 2013.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



Mayflower. Tufted titmouse. Manomet, Massachusetts, 2012.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



O. Gray catbird. Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, Cold Spring, New York, 2011.

Archival pigment print Size: 40 x 50 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



Unnameable. Columbia University, New York City, 2011.

Archival pigment print Size: 40 x 50 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



Of how terrible orange is. Near Saratoga Springs, New York, 2010.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



Untitled (branch in camera).
Northampton, Massachusetts, 2012.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



Untitled. Capen Garden of Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts 2012.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 3/9 € 3.100



Untitled. Baltimore oriole. Manomet, Massachusetts, 2013.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100





Ivory gate. Yellow rumped warbler. Manomet, Massachusetts, 2013.

Archival pigment print

Sizes: 40 x 50 cm. & 65 x 85 cm.

Editions: 1/9 & 2/5 € 3.100 & € 5.200



Untitled. Yellow rumped warbler. Manomet, Massachusetts, 2013.

Archival pigment print

Sizes: 50 x 40 cm. & 85 x 65 cm.

Editions: 1/9 & 2/5 € 3.100 & € 5.200



Untitled. The Botanical Garden of Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, 2012.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm.

Edition: 2/9 € 3.100



## Untitled. Gray catbird. Manomet, New York, 2013.

Archival pigment print Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 1/9 € 3.100



Untitled. Northampton, Massachusetts, 2012.

Archival pigment print

Size: 50 x 40 cm. Edition: 2/9 € 3.100