

AARON LEITZ: STUDIO VISIT





Aaron Leitz
Remember You Must

Aaron Leitz' *Remember You Must* series re-envision the floral still life through a contemporary, nostalgic lens, where 1980s children's toys function as vanitas icons, scattered around hazy, vibrant bouquets. Working within the formal constraints of photography, Leitz' work captures the painterly glow often associated with the genre. Through experimentations in camera technique and stark lighting, Leitz evokes the chiaroscuro shimmer of the Dutch masters.



Across his multiple series', at the crux of Leitz' work is a conversation between the medium of photography and the properties of painting. In *Remember You Must*, the imagery is uniquely grounded in reality— flowers carefully placed in a room with vintage toy cars, etch-a-sketches, action figures— but the final compositions become untethered from the natural world in the camera's ability to, as Leitz describes, “capture light and paste it to time”. The bouquets themselves are comprised of artificial flowers, further complicating the dynamic of the reality that the camera can capture.





This dialogue between form and content enriches the notions of a still life, by highlighting the inevitability of decay through snapshots of blossoming flowers and impeccably preserved knickknacks. Toying with the concept of *memento mori*, Leitz uses the camera to freeze his subjects at their most pristine, while suggesting a hazy deterioration through camera technique.



“I began experimenting with camera movement and long exposures. By lengthening the exposure time and using a mix of flash and ambient lighting, I can use the camera almost like a paintbrush - pulling light from here and color and texture from there. The catch is that during the exposure while the shutter is open, I can only direct the camera in a general and imprecise way.”
— Aaron Leitz

“So, while my construction of the physical scene— the arrangement of individual flower blossoms, the placement of objects— is very precise, much of the photographic process is left to chance and happenstance. In this way, each exposure is unique – combining the objects in the frame, the movement of the camera, and light and color outside of the frame, in ways that can never be repeated exactly. What happens within the bracket of these few seconds of improvisation is what brings the photographs to life.” — Aaron Leitz





Aaron Leitz's *Remember You Must* is on view at Winston Wachter Fine Art Seattle from April 28th to June 12th 2023.