



MARTIN COOPER

The Print and Process

The Print:

Martin Cooper upholds the tradition of early 20th century photographic masters by hand toning each print to achieve a unique richness and depth. Each tone is chemically mixed from scratch, using homemade recipes based on 19th and early 20th century formulas, painstakingly adapted to the 21st century. The work of Stieglitz, Steichen, or the patina of Maillol's bronze figurines inspires the coloration of his black and white prints. Each gelatin silver print is 100% archival, made on the finest quality double-weight fiber base paper. This procedure ensures that the image will remain in its original form without tonal shifts. Each image is printed in a limited edition of *only* 15 prints to ensure *exclusivity*, and is signed, stamped, dated, numbered, and titled by the artist.

Polaroid and the Process:

Martin Cooper works in the style of the "pictorial narrative." Each project begins with a prolonged period of research, where he absorbs myth, culture and civilization. Then seamlessly, they are blended to create a new visual language that becomes complex and multifaceted, yet deceptively simple. His projects have taken him into such diverse worlds, from astronomy to ancient sport.

Cooper's process also incorporates the use of Polaroid products to create his imagery. He works exclusively with Polaroid films (T55 & T665) because of their uniquely rich and velvet-like quality. Both films are integral films, meaning they contain a positive as well as a negative. This methodology helps facilitate Cooper's process by being able to share the image with the model within seconds, thereby fostering a collaborative spirit and reducing the margin for miscommunication. Cooper has numerous works acquired by the Polaroid Collections.