



J. John Priola, *Gold Vase*, 2018
Archival pigment print, 26 x 21 in.

J. John Priola *Natural Light*

February 7 - March 9, 2019
Reception: February 9th, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Anglim Gilbert Gallery
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Anglim Gilbert Gallery is pleased to present *Natural Light*, an exhibition of new photographic works by **J. John Priola**.

Natural Light marks a return to the studio for **Priola**, whose previous bodies of work have consisted of streetscapes wherein objects, either cast aside on front lawns or carefully set out as a charitable donations, make reference to the individuals who place them there. Though working in a consciously controlled setting, his new images are a study of the unruly.

Grow, *Parasite*, *Foliage*, *Tree Tags*, *Posies*, and *Cuts*, (produced between 2016 - 2018) encapsulate Priola's fascination with the ever-contrary natural world. Both its quirks and somber impassivity are amplified by humanity's interventions, and Priola's deft use of lighting and composition draws careful attention to these seductive peculiarities.

His images of potted houseplants and vibrant arrangements of synthetic flowers are subtly anthropomorphic. Domestic greenery, presented with all the trappings of traditional portrait photography, is purposefully imbued with human characteristics. Priola, who borrowed plants from neighbors and acquaintances, characterizes the images as an opportunity to discover people through the objects they care for.

The playfulness of *Grow* and *Posies* is tempered by the pathos of *Foliage*, presented here as a grid of 20 images. Each photograph consists of a delicate wreath of branches, leaves, or flowers set against a deep black ground, all haunting in their own particular way. Softly-lit with deep shadows, the foliage beckons the viewer forward into a void — making palpable Priola's innate sense of attraction and repulsion.

J. John Priola is based in San Francisco and teaches at the San Francisco Art Institute, where he received his MFA in 1987. *Natural Light* is his sixth solo exhibition at the gallery.