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SHADOWS AT DUSK

SEB XAVIER

EXHIBITION AT A GLANCE

SHADOWS AT DUSK BY SEB XAVIER

A series of cinematic, constructed photographs examining the beautiful lies modern life asks us to perform: status, desire, spectacle, and the quiet cost of what lies beneath polished surfaces.

ARTIST

Seb Xavier

FORMAT

Narrative fine-art photography

LOCATION

Gallery 8,
8 Duke Street St James'
SW1Y6BN
London

DATES

Sept 4-6, 2026

OPENING

6:30 PM, Sept 3, 2026

PRESS CONTACT

info@shadowsatdusk.com

EDITIONS

Limited edition prints available

COLLECTOR ENQUIRIES

Full edition, dimension and pricing on request
— enquiries via press contact

THE SERIES

Developed over five years, Shadows at Dusk builds complete fictional worlds around each image. Practical sets, handmade props, costume, casting and cinematic lighting are used to make each scene feel lived-in rather than simply photographed.

CORE THEMES

Power and obedience. The performance of status. Saving face. Consumer desire. Nostalgia and lost innocence. Love and isolation. The tension between spectacle and what lies beneath it.

PRESS MATERIALS

Press release / artist statement / editorial angles / artist biography / selected visual materials / collector pricing on request

Shadows At Dusk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / SHOWDATES SEPT 4-6

London-based photographer and artist Seb Xavier presents his debut solo exhibition, *Shadows at Dusk*, a body of narrative fine-art photography five years in the making, at Gallery 8, 8 Duke Street St James's, from 4–6 September 2026.

The series examines the contradictions of modern life: the desire to be seen and the loneliness that can follow it; the promise of status and consumption against the emptiness beneath them; and the comfort of rules against the danger of following them without question. Through carefully constructed scenes, Xavier uses the seductive language of beauty and spectacle to explore the quieter costs of aspiration, performance and a culture increasingly preoccupied with its own image.

Mythology, classical painting, cinema and advertising are folded into contemporary tableaux populated by figures such as Cupid, Lady Justice and Minerva, alongside Hollywood archetypes, suburban families and children inheriting the consequences of the adult world.

Xavier's process is deliberately practical. Sets are built, props designed and fabricated, costumes sourced or created, and scenes staged with large casts before the camera. Even details occupying only a fraction of the finished frame are treated as part of the narrative, resulting in a body of work that sits between photography, cinema and constructed tableau.

Shadows at Dusk opens with a private preview on 3 September, followed by the public exhibition from 4–6 September. A limited-edition art book accompanies the exhibition, alongside limited-edition photographic prints. Full edition details, dimensions and pricing are available on request through the press contact.

Beautiful surfaces. Uncomfortable truths.

I have always been drawn to images that look beautiful before they reveal something darker. *Shadows at Dusk* grew from that tension. Each photograph begins as a question about the systems, desires and contradictions we live with every day: what we buy, what we hide, what we obey, what we perform and what all of it costs us.

The worlds are intentionally theatrical, but the details are grounded. I want the sets, props and characters to feel tangible enough that the viewer can enter the scene and begin reading it for themselves. The work does not ask for one fixed interpretation. It asks the viewer to stay with the image long enough for the cracks to appear.

Growing up in Hong Kong, I was surrounded by a city that had perfected the performance of itself: spectacle, aspiration and image as a way of life. Moving to England, and later working across London and Los Angeles, I found the same tensions operating at different frequencies. *Shadows at Dusk* is, in part, an attempt to photograph what that performance costs.



Ways Into The Story

01 FIVE YEARS IN THE MAKING

An independent photographic world built across years of sketches, shoots, casting, set construction and practical effects.

02 THE ANTI-AI PROCESS

A deliberately tactile approach runs throughout the series, with physical sets, handmade props, costumes and practical effects used to construct each final image. Xavier begins every photograph with a hand-drawn sketch, allowing the initial concept and finished work to be presented side by side as part of the creative process.

03 BEAUTY AS BAIT

Why seductive, cinematic imagery can be an effective entry point for work about isolation, consumerism, control and social performance. The aesthetic choices are not decorative, they are the argument.



CONCEPT SKETCH



FINAL IMAGE

Ways Into The Story

04 CLASSICAL SYMBOLS, MODERN ANXIETIES

Cupid, Lady Justice, Minerva and the Sword of Damocles sit alongside modern myths such as the American Dream and the Hollywood star, each reimagined through the pressures, contradictions and anxieties of contemporary life.

05 THE DETAILS YOU ALMOST MISS

Fake newspapers, advertisements, products, signs and written ephemera extend the narrative beyond the central action of each photograph, all of which were hand-made, designed and crafted by the artist.

06 HONG KONG TO HOLLYWOOD VIA LONDON

A Hong Kong childhood, an English art education, and a practice built across London and Los Angeles. Xavier's biography is itself a story about cross-cultural image-making — what it means to grow up between visual worlds and to photograph the mythology that connects them.



SELECTION OF PROPS USED THROUGHOUT THE SERIES

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sebastian Xavier

Photographer / Artist / London

Seb Xavier (b. 1996) grew up in Hong Kong, where drawing his own comics, painting and homemade films became his earliest experiments in storytelling. That childhood, defined by a city performing itself at spectacular scale, became the formative lens through which he has since examined aspiration, image and the gap between surface and truth.

By his late teens, those interests had evolved into photography, leading him to England to study Art and Film. Following several years working across fashion photography, production and advertising, Xavier began developing the elaborate, narrative-driven tableaux that would come to define his practice.

Drawing from classical painting, mythology, anime, cinema and pop culture, his work combines visual spectacle with social critique; reimagining familiar archetypes through the language of contemporary life. His practice has expanded beyond photography to incorporate illustration, CGI, practical effects and miniature sets, all brought together to construct highly detailed cinematic worlds in which beauty, fantasy and nostalgia often conceal something more uneasy beneath the surface.

Shadows at Dusk, exhibited at Gallery 8, Duke Street St James's, September 2026, is his most ambitious independent body of work to date.



SELECTED CREDITS

Sony Music - Cat Burns / Universal Music - Digga D / Channel 4 - MAXXX / fashion, music and independent editorial commissions

ONLINE

www.sebxavier.com @seb_xavier

A world built in details



PEACE & WAR / SELECTED IMAGE MATERIAL



AT WHAT COST? / SELECTED IMAGE MATERIAL



BACK TO SCHOOL / SELECTED IMAGE MATERIAL



LOOK GOOD AND SMILE / SELECTED IMAGE MATERIAL



LOVE? / SELECTED IMAGE MATERIAL



THE SQUABBLES OF MAN / SELECTED IMAGE MATERIAL

Acquiring the Work

Shadows at Dusk is available as a series of limited-edition fine-art prints. Each work is produced to archival standards, signed and numbered by the artist, and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity.

The series is presented as individual works and select multi-work groupings. Full edition details, dimensions, materials and pricing are available directly through the press contact or at the exhibition.

FORMAT

Limited-edition archival fine-art prints

EDITIONS

Numbered and signed — edition sizes on request

PRICING

Available on request — contact press contact below

ART BOOK

Limited-edition book accompanies the exhibition

ENQUIRIES

info@shadowsatdusk.com · www.shadowsatdusk.com

Assets, credits & contact

IMAGE CREDITS

Photography © Seb Xavier. Please retain full artwork titles and credits when publishing. Full credits for individual pieces available on request.

PRESS IMAGES

High-resolution press imagery can be supplied for editorial coverage. Please contact info@shadowsatdusk.com with publication usage and deadline.

INTERVIEWS

Seb Xavier is available for interviews concerning the exhibition, production process, individual works, the art book and the development of Shadows at Dusk.

COLLECTOR ENQUIRIES

Limited-edition works and the official Shadows at Dusk art book are available separately. Full edition, dimension and pricing information can be provided in the catalogue upon request..

PRESS CONTACT

info@shadowsatdusk.com

www.shadowsatdusk.com [@seb_xavier](https://www.instagram.com/seb_xavier)