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GALLERY

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Matthew Rolston
Vanitas: The Palermo Portraits

September 25 through November 8, 2025
Exhibition Reception: Thursday, September 25th

Photographer and artist **Matthew Rolston**, in partnership with **Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles**, **ArtCenter College of Design**, **Daido Moriyama Museum / Daido Star Space**, and **Leica Gallery, Los Angeles**, present a multi-venue Los Angeles exhibition of his latest series *Vanitas: The Palermo Portraits*, alongside the release of a special limited-edition monograph on Nazraeli Press.

In production for well over a decade, *Vanitas* represents a cumulative effort by Rolston to aesthetically capture the fraught human relationship to death through the medium of photography, a profound narrative, as seen through the decaying faces of mummified individuals in Palermo, Sicily's Catacombe dei Cappuccini. These vivid, painterly compositions bring forth an interwoven meditation on beauty, mortality and art through Rolston's uniquely photographic lens.

The monumentally scaled, richly hued *Vanitas* prints will be framed in patinated gold leaf, in a manner suggestive of and in tribute to the works of Francis Bacon, and, in a significant departure from typical edition practice, they will be offered as unique objects, more in the tradition of painting than photography.

Four individual works will be on view in a solo exhibition at Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles, which will display the most extensive presentation of the *Vanitas* series, including the monograph's cover photograph.

At ArtCenter College of Design, Rolston will further present a triptych of the *Vanitas* work as a wall-sized installation at the College's South Campus, curated by Julie Joyce, Director, ArtCenter Galleries and Vice President, Exhibitions. This presentation will be the only triptych on exhibition; the central panel appears on the clamshell cover of the forthcoming *Vanitas* monograph, a signature of the series. These three works, hung in ArtCenter's Mullin Transportation Design Center, comprise two images of mummified children flanking one of an elderly adult, brought together in the style of an altarpiece, where the sacred and mundane, youth and elder age, collide.

A single work will be shown at a solo exhibition that will open with a book launch and artist signing at Daido Star Space in downtown Los Angeles on September 30, 2025. Organized in collaboration with the Daido Moriyama Photo Foundation in Tokyo, the presentation echoes the institution's interest in cross-cultural approaches to photography.

Leica Gallery, Los Angeles, will present another solo exhibition of an additional single work from *Vanitas*, accompanied by a public artist talk and book signing. At a venue rooted in the technical and material traditions of photography, this presentation will highlight the painterly, craft-driven aspects of Rolston's *Vanitas* project.

Together, these four distinct presentations introduce *Vanitas* as a 'mostra diffusa', an exhibition intentionally distributed among multiple venues. This multi-venue presentation across Los Angeles reflects a conscious

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departure from the contemporary conventions of exhibition production, recalling art historical traditions in which singular works were presented in isolation.

All works, regardless of exhibition venue, will be available exclusively through Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles, which will also offer an artist-signed edition of the exhibition's accompanying monograph.

For more information about Matthew Rolston and *Vanitas: The Palermo Portraits*, please visit:

<https://www.vanitasproject.com>

Press Photographs & Press Materials are available on request.

VANITAS: THE PALERMO PORTRAITS* - MULTI-VENUE EXHIBITION DETAILS

*Fahey/Klein is one of five venues showing works from Rolston's Vanitas project. All works, regardless of venue, are exclusively available through Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles.

Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles

Opening reception, Thursday, September 25 at 7 p.m.

On view thru Saturday, November 8, 2025

148 N. La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, CA

Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE

ArtCenter College of Design (South Campus)

Opening reception, Saturday September 20 at 6 p.m.

Mullin Transportation Design Center – Oculus Space (2nd Floor)

On view thru Sunday, November 9, 2025

950 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena, CA

Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FREE with RSVP

[LINK](#) for more information and to RSVP

Daido Moriyama Museum / Daido Star Space, Los Angeles

Opening reception, book launch and artist signing, Tuesday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m.

On view thru Wednesday, October 22, 2025

The Reef, 1933 S. Broadway, Unit 1266, Los Angeles, CA (12th Floor)

Hours: By appointment. Contact: studio@matthewrolston.com

FREE

Leica Gallery, Los Angeles

Opening reception, artist talk and book signing, Sunday, October 26 at 1 p.m.

On view thru Sunday, November 2, 2025

8783 Beverly Blvd, West Hollywood CA

Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE

Matthew Rolston Fine Art

On view from Monday, September 8, 2025

The Reef, 1933 S. Broadway, Unit 1265, Los Angeles, CA (12th Floor)

Hours: By appointment. Contact: studio@matthewrolston.com

FREE

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