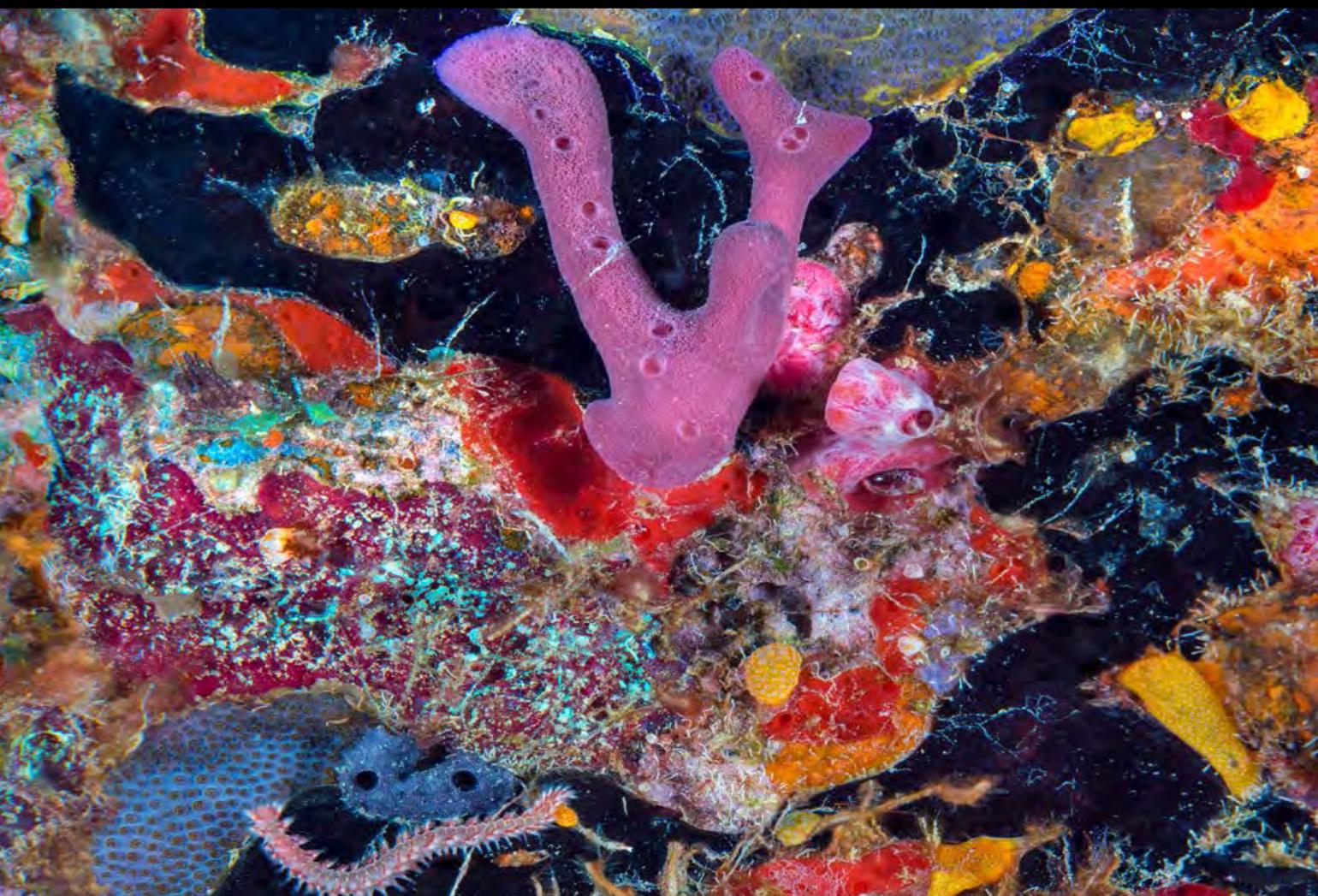


Portrait of a Coral Reef

Underwater Landscapes

From the Hotspots of Marine Biodiversity



Art in Unexpected Places

Jim Hellemn

Jim Hellemn

www.jimhellemn.com

One-of-a-kind Coral Reef Landscapes



Underwater photographer and digital imaging specialist Jim Hellemn creates images of extreme proportion, using specialized lighting and multiple images to capture incredible underwater landscape images of coral reefs and ocean environments. A recent project, a 2,400 mega pixel image of a California Giant Kelp Forest, has been reproduced at life size in glass panels at the front of the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California. The photograph itself is extremely unique – underwater photographs are extremely limited in resolution and coverage without the techniques which Hellemn uses. “When you back up to take a wide shot, everything turns blue and fuzzy because water absorbs all the red and yellow light and obscures details”, Jim explains. To solve the problem, Jim developed his own equipment and methodology. He developed his own techniques, using computers to stitch multiple images together to create seamless panoramas and created the first “gigapixel” image in 1999. As a result, Jim’s images can contain more than 500 times more pixels than a typical photograph and are able to capture the vivid colors and details across a wide field. The aquarium project represents another important aspect of Hellemn’s work; public awareness and ocean conservation. Jim’s images offer a unique way to appreciate a part of our environment that very few people get to experience. If people can make the connection with the ocean as an important part of their own environment, Hellemn hopes they will instinctively want to protect it



Jim Hellemn has been creating high resolution ocean images since 1999, when he completed his first gigapixel image of a coral reef wall in the Cayman Islands. The 1.7 gigapixel photograph of Bloody Bay Wall (“Portrait of a Coral Reef”, National Geographic Magazine Oct 2001) was the first “stitched” image ever created and, at the time, was the highest resolution digital image ever produced. Hellemn also created one of the first “stitched” images, before digital cameras and stitching software existed. Working from film, he developed a methodology for seamlessly blending images together with a high degree of accuracy. His images are still created this way, with each frame corrected and manually stitched together in a process that cannot be rushed or automated. Some images take weeks, or even months to produce. In 2006, Jim was commissioned to produce a coral reef image large enough to cover the side of a building in Grand Cayman. The resulting image was rendered in tiny, hand-cut Italian glass tiles, and now covers an inside wall of the Camana Bay Observation Tower, where visitors can walk up a coral reef on their way to the observation deck. His painstakingly stitched pictures also give scientists a valuable yardstick for making ecological comparisons. In 2010, he returned to Bloody Bay Wall to create a matching image of the site a decade later, working with a team of researchers studying the changes in the reef over time. Another project at the same site investigates coral fluorescence. The project results are displayed in a traveling exhibit called “Creatures of Light”, currently at the Field Museum in Chicago. Jim has produced many other images around the world. His current work focuses on creating underwater landscapes in all of the “hotspots” of marine biodiversity around the world, identified by researchers and rated by biodiversity and endangment.

ARCHITECTURAL INSTALLATIONS / PUBLIC ATTRACTIONS

“Coral Anchors” Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands Opened January 2016

Shoes are optional at this attraction - a 30 foot wide semi-outdoor fine art print installation in paradise at the Cayman Brac Beach Resort. “Coral Anchors” is a two gigapixel image of a pristine coral reef wall in Cayman Brac, commissioned by the resort. Over a year was spent planning and executing the production of the image.

Camana Bay Observation Tower Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands Opened October 2009

In 2006, Jim Hellemn was commissioned to create a high resolution coral reef image for the Camana Bay Observation Tower, a five story public attraction in Grand Cayman, where visitors can now “walk” up a coral reef. The concept was to create a photorealistic image of a typical Cayman reef wall depicting the abundance of marine life commonly found there. As a way to involve all of the islands and avoid spotlighting one site over another, the image for the tower was created from over a hundred individual images captured at pristine sites on all three islands and blended into one spectacular scene. The final image on the tower is 25 feet wide and over 70 feet high. From a distance it appears to be a photograph, but up close a completely new level of artistry is revealed - the image is rendered in millions of hand-cut Italian glass tiles in fine detail. It took several months to create the composite image and over two years for the tile production and installation.

Aquarium of the Pacific Long Beach, California Opened April 2013

Commissioned to create a life size photograph of a California Kelp Forest, Jim was faced with a huge new challenge. As a result of this work, a new extension at the front of the Aquarium of the Pacific features a 2.6 gigapixel image of a kelp forest embedded in the glass windows that line 130 ft structure. Illuminated at night, the image is viewable from the inside and outside of the building, giving visitors the impression they are looking into an underwater Kelp Forest.

“Creatures of Light” Exhibit American Museum of Natural History, NY Opened March 2012

In a third project at Bloody Bay Wall, funded by the National Science Foundation, Jim created a third high resolution image of Bloody Bay Wall, this time working with scientists to capture coral fluorescence at night. The “Creatures of Light” exhibit opened at the American Museum of Natural History March 2012 in New York and has been featured at the Field Museum in Chicago and the Fernbank Natural History Museum in Atlanta. The exhibit will travel to other venues around the world through 2022.

Little Cayman Museum Little Cayman, Cayman Islands

Images from the “Return to Bloody Bay” and “Grouper Moon” projects are on display at the Little Cayman Museum. Completely renovated and reopened to the public in 2014, the museum includes historical items from the personal collection of museum founder Linton Tibbetts along with curated exhibits preserving the history, people and rich, colorful culture of Little Cayman.

Sunset House Room 407 George Town, Grand Cayman

Sunset House renovated several ocean-front rooms in 2014, creating underwater theme rooms decorated by prominent underwater photographers. Jim Hellemn is very honored to be chosen for this project, among some of the best underwater photographers in the world. Jim’s signature room is decorated with large aluminum prints of Grand Cayman underwater scenes including “Orange Canyon”, “Camana Bay Reef” and “The Feast”.

GALLERIES

Ritz Carlton Gallery

Ritz Carlton, Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman

Lee Hayden Gallery

Beachwood Place, Cleveland, Ohio

The Octagon Gallery

Ames, Iowa

AWARDS / PUBLICATIONS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2001 | “Portrait of a Coral Reef”, <i>National Geographic Magazine</i> |
| 2009 | Nature’s Best Photography - <i>Windland Smith Rice Award</i> |
| 2011 | ASMP Best of 2011 - “Return to Bloody Bay” |
| 2013 | Ocean Geographic Society Pictures of the Year, <i>Wyland Award</i> |
| 2013 | 2013 Commercial Interior Design Award |
| 2016 | “City Panorama” - Seattle |

Publications include National Geographic, Ocean Geographic, Sport Diver, Scuba Diving, Diver, Asian Geographic, Nature’s Best Photography, Real Life



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Coral Reef Landscapes

From the Hotspots of Marine Biodiversity

Art in Unexpected Places

About the prints

Fine art quality prints on aluminum composite with recessed aluminum frame

Each print is a limited edition - entirely hand-made, hand-signed by the artist. In short, these are the highest quality archival prints that we know how to make, designed to last a lifetime. All prints are Giclées, printed on PET gloss film for the highest imaging quality using wide-gamut archival inks rated for more than 130 year indoor life. The print is mounted on 1/8" thick DiBond Aluminum composite and backed with an elegant satin aluminum square tube frame that is recessed 3-5" inches (depending on the print size), so that the sheet appears to float one inch off the wall.

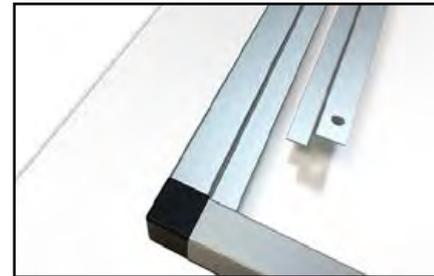
Canvas and Custom Print Types Available by Quote



hand signed by artist



elegant satin aluminum backing frame



easy hanging system

ALUMINUM PRINT STANDARD WIDTHS 48" / 60" / 70" / 80" / 90" / 110"

STRETCHED AND UNSTRETCH CANVAS PRINTS AVAILABLE BY QUOTE

CUSTOM SIZES AND PRINT TYPES AVAILABLE BY QUOTE - most images available in a wide variety of sizes and print types

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Please contact us by email for custom quotes at sales@blueoceanart.com.

Art in Unexpected Places

Shipwreck Collection

- 4, 6 "Alma Jane Detail" Puerto Galera, Philippines
- 7 "Alma Jane Bow" Puerto Galera, Philippines
- 8 "Alma Jane" Puerto Galera, Philippines
- 9 "Halliburton Bow" Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras
- 10, 11 "Coral Reef Reflections" Komodo, Indonesia
- 12, 13 "Komodo Wall Panel 1" Komodo, Indonesia
- 14, 15 "Komodo Wall Panel 2" Komodo, Indonesia
- 16, 17 "Shipwreck Abstracts" Puerto Galera, Philippines

Open Ocean Collection

- 20, 22 "The Blue" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies
- 23, 24 "The Blue 2" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies
- 26, 28 "The Blue 3" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies
- 29, 30 "The Blue 4" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies

Coral Fluorescence Collection

- 35, 36 "Great Wall Coral Fluorescence" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies
- 38 "Great Wall Coral Fluorescence Crop 3" Little Cayman Island, BWI
- 39 "Great Wall Coral Fluorescence Crop 4" Little Cayman Island, BWI
- 40 "Gleaming Tower" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies
- 41 "Shimmering Polyps" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies
- 42 "The Octopus and the Eel" Little Cayman Island, British West Indies



Shipwreck Collection

Dark and mysterious, shipwrecks conjure an eerie image of a rusty derelict - perhaps it's haunted as well.

But viewed up close, extremely close, and with lots of light, the sides of wrecks reveal a beautiful abstract carpet of tiny marine life flaunting vivid colors covering the entire spectrum.

In order to capture the true color and details of the marine life, hundreds of overlapping macro photographs were meticulously recorded just inches away from the sides of the wreck, illuminated with high power strobes. The photographs were processed, color corrected and reassembled in post-production to create a single extreme resolution image.

“Alma Jane Detail”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum and Canvas



A high resolution detail of a section of the wreck of the Alma Jane Bow. The Alma Jane was purposefully sunk as an artificial reef and scuba diving attraction in Puerto Galera, Philippines.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
Sizes available 24 X 24 | 32 X 32 | 40 X 40 | 50 X 50



“Alma Jane Bow”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum and Canvas



Wide mosaic image of the Alma Jane Bow. Several hundred images were necessary to capture the entire scene.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
Sizes available 18 X 48 | 22 X 60 | 26 X 70 | 34 X 90 | 40 X 110



“Alma Jane”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum and Canvas

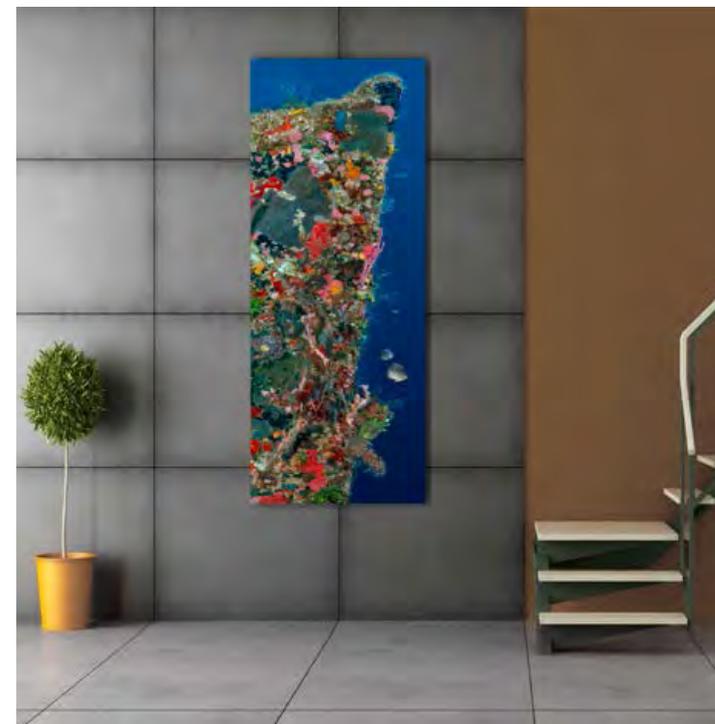


The side of the Alma Jane shipwreck in Puerto Galera, Philippines is covered with encrusting sponges in stunning colors.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
 Sizes available 18 X 48 | 22 X 60 | 26 X 70 | 34 X 90 | 40 X 110

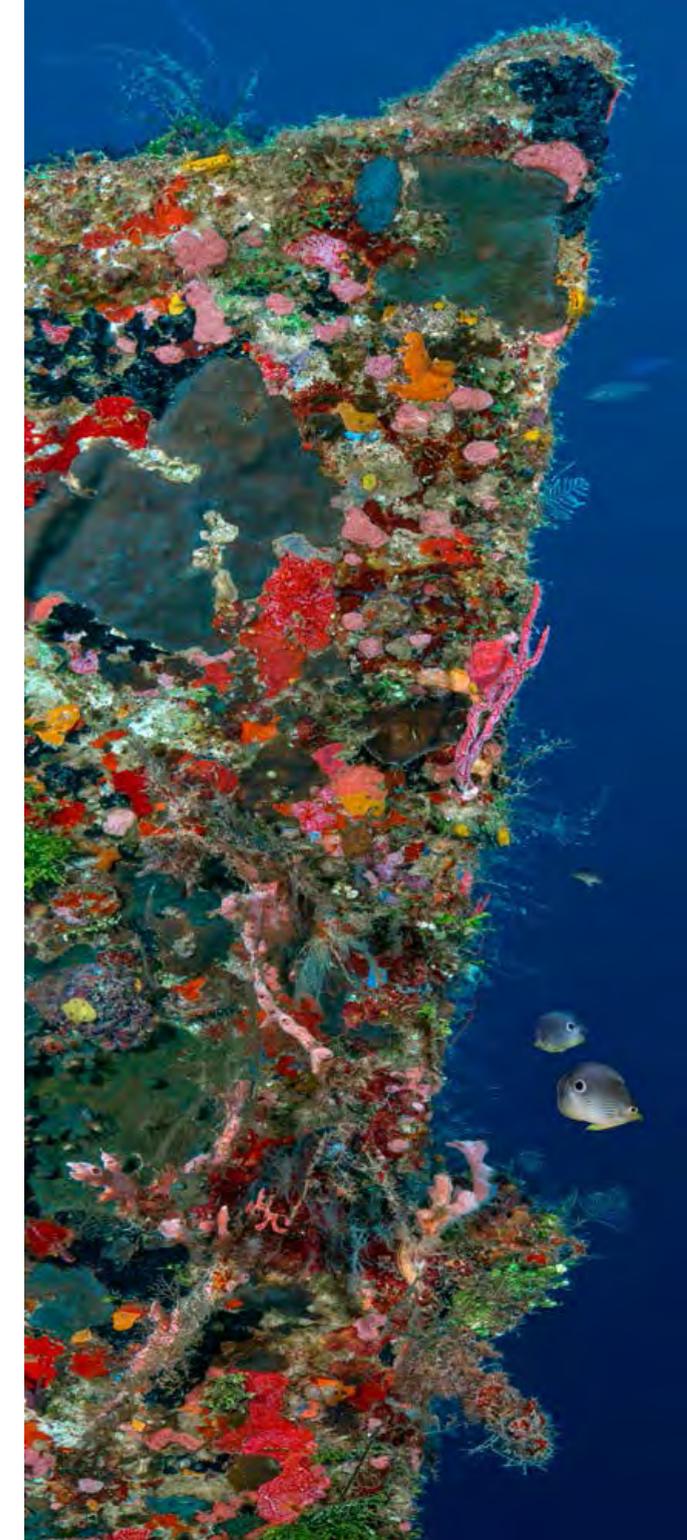
“Halliburton Bow”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum and Canvas



In dim light 60-100 feet below the ocean surface, the wreck of the Halliburton in Utila, Honduras appears dark and drab to the naked eye. But shine a bright light, and the surface of the massive ship comes alive, covered in a brightly hued carpet of sponges, corals and algae in every color of the spectrum. To capture the spectacular color, hundreds of overlapping macro photographs were taken at a measured distance, just inches away from the side of the ship. Each photograph covered an area 4 inches wide and was illuminated with high power underwater strobes.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
 Sizes available 18 X 48 | 22 X 60 | 26 X 70 | 34 X 90 | 40 X 110



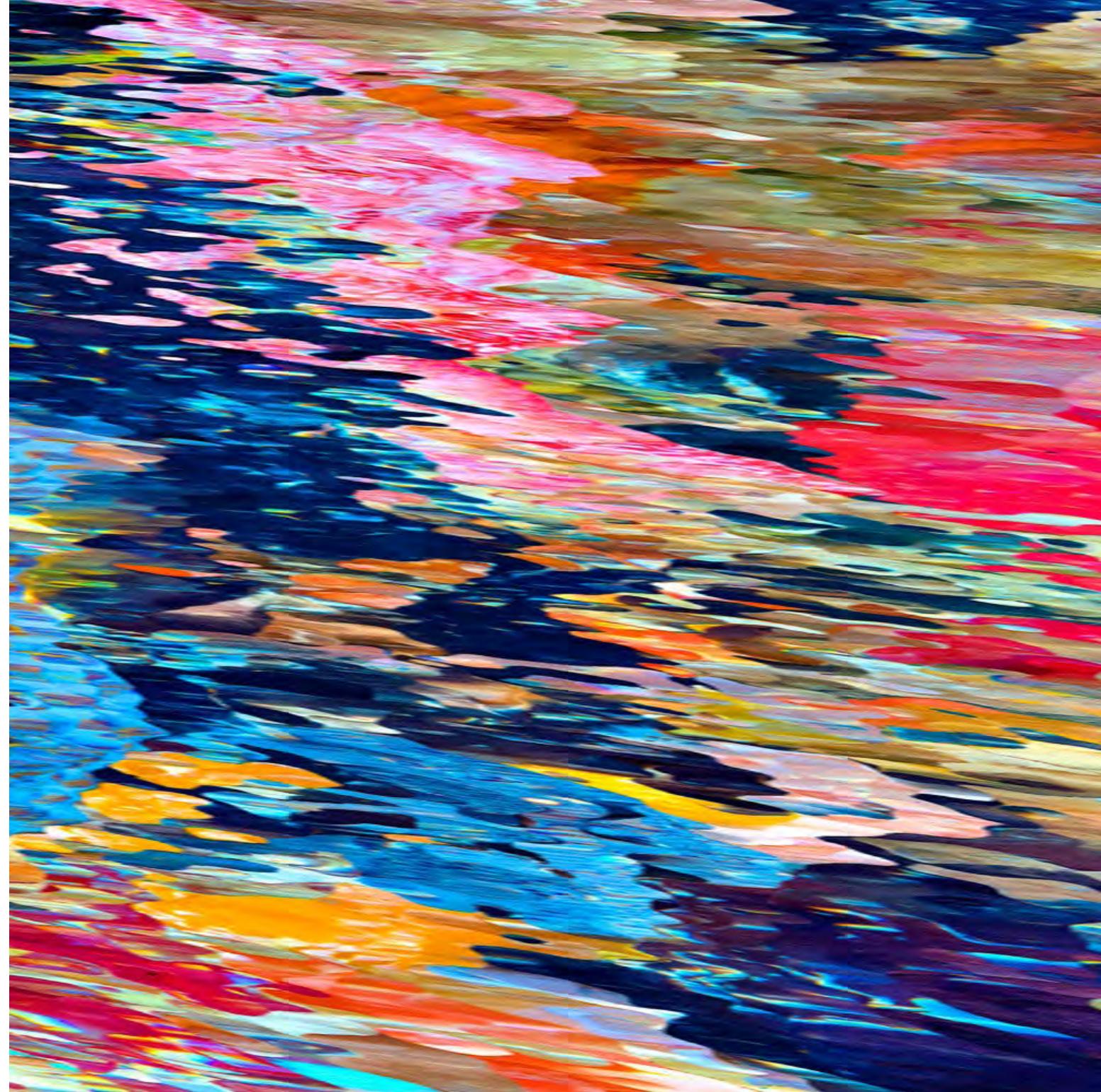
“Coral Reef Reflection”
Fine Art Print on Aluminum



The vivid color of tropical corals and sponges, reflected in the surface of the water.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.

Sizes available 24 X 24 | 32 X 32 | 40 X 40 | 50 X 50



“Komodo Wall Panel 1”
Fine Art Print on Aluminum



On a tiny island in Komodo, Indonesia, the steep walls and shallow reef team with life. One of the most biodiverse ocean environments on the planet, the reef here is densely covered with soft and hard corals, sponges, tunicates and a myriad of other marine life. To produce this image of a vertical section of the reef, hundreds of overlapping high resolution photographs were taken at close range, then seamlessly reassembled into a single super resolution image.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
Sizes available 24 X 24 | 32 X 32 | 40 X 40 | 50 X 50

“Komodo Wall Panel 2”
Fine Art Print on Aluminum



High resolution image of a vertical section of the reef on Tengah Island. Hundreds of overlapping photographs were seamlessly reassembled into a single super resolution image.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.

Sizes available 24 X 24 | 32 X 32 | 40 X 40 | 50 X 50



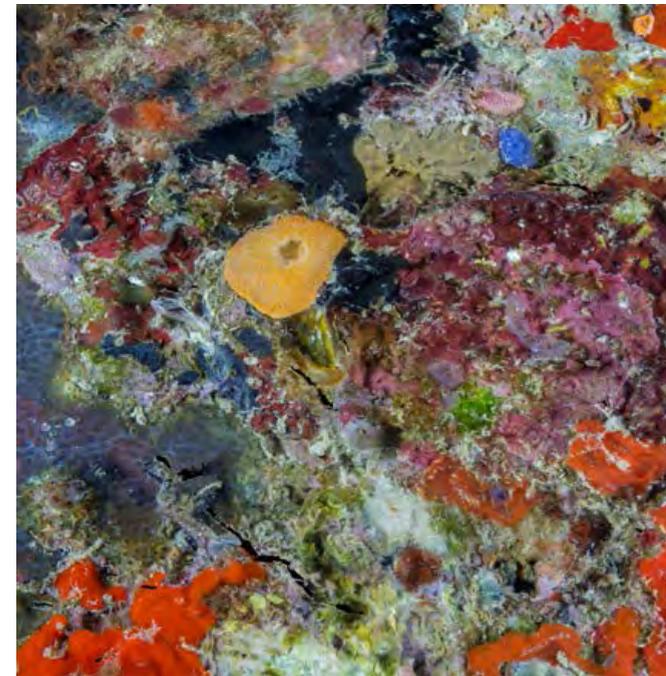
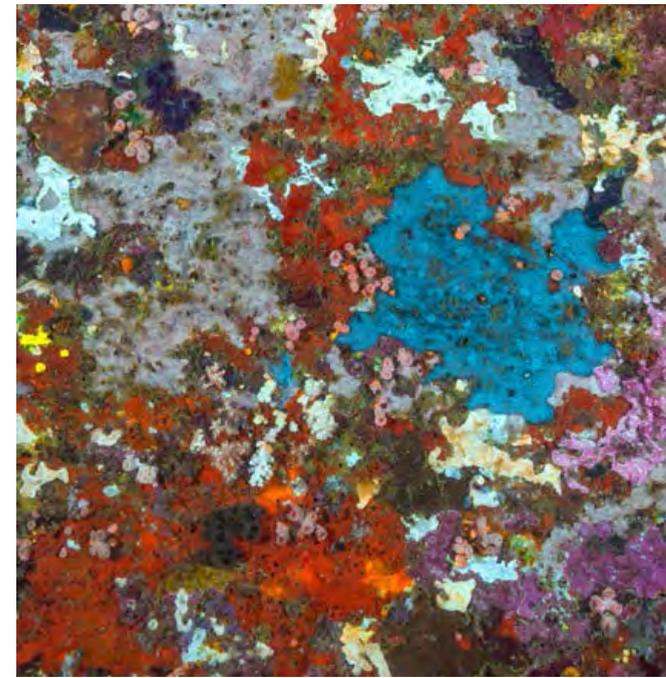
“Shipwreck Abstracts”
Fine Art Print on Aluminum



Vivid abstract colors of encrusting sponges, corals and other marine life growing on the sides of shipwrecks.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.

Sizes available 24 X 24 | 32 X 32 | 40 X 40 | 50 X 50





Open Ocean Collection

It's not nothing.

But the open ocean feels like nothing. Empty space.

We are weightless. We're in an alien world where everything is the same blue in all directions. And there is no bottom.

Nothing.

Nothing, that is until you start to imagine what could be there. Do you see it? Is there something behind you?

The Open Ocean series started with those questions - and, the biggie - "What does it feel like to be out there in 'the blue'?"



"The Blue" Little Cayman

“The Blue”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum

Limited Edition of 15



A Caribbean reef shark swims through a school of creole wrasse in the blue, off the wall at Little Cayman.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
Sizes available 14 X 48 | 18 X 60 | 21 X 70 | 27 X 90 | 36 X 119

“The Blue”

Sitting at the bar at the Southern Cross Club on Little Cayman one evening, I became involved in a conversation with one of the locals about diving in the open ocean. I discovered this new friend is a resident of this tiny remote island only part of the year, and like me, he has traveled to dive in many parts of the world. Having similar experiences and an appreciation for the ocean and its creatures in common, we shared our feelings about being out there. Like myself, Raoul has encountered “The Blue” – immersed in deep water with no bottom – far from the shore in the open ocean. When surrounded on all sides by the dark blue nothingness and the mystery of what lies just beyond the edge of that nothingness, one’s mind races. ... Is it really nothing out there? Did a shadow just pass behind you... ... Or do you just feel something back there? Something swims by - a shark? Did I see that? It’s not there now ... but I think something else is.

This is the conversation that inspired my desire to capture “The Blue”. The limited edition print reflects Raoul’s enthusiasm for the ocean and his desire to own a really large piece of it to enjoy at home.

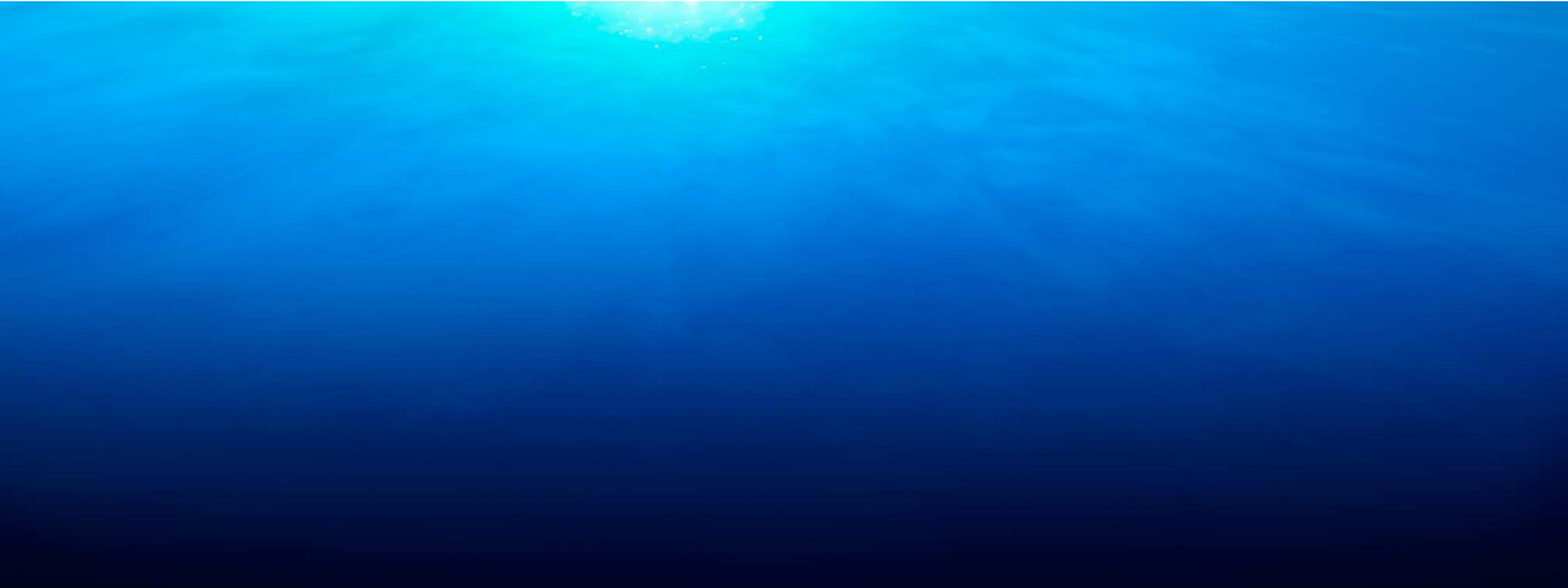
Thank you, Raoul.

“The Blue 2”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum



The open ocean. Being here alone - seeing this in all directions - is a feeling beyond words.
Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
Sizes available 18 X 48 | 22 X 60 | 26 X 70 | 34 X 90 | 40 X 110



"The Blue 2" Little Cayman



"The Blue 3" Little Cayman

“The Blue 3”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum



Creole Wrasse swarm the blue with a Black Surge wrasse and Great Barracuda on watch.
Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
Sizes available 18 X 48 | 22 X 60 | 26 X 70 | 34 X 90 | 40 X 110

“The Blue 4”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum

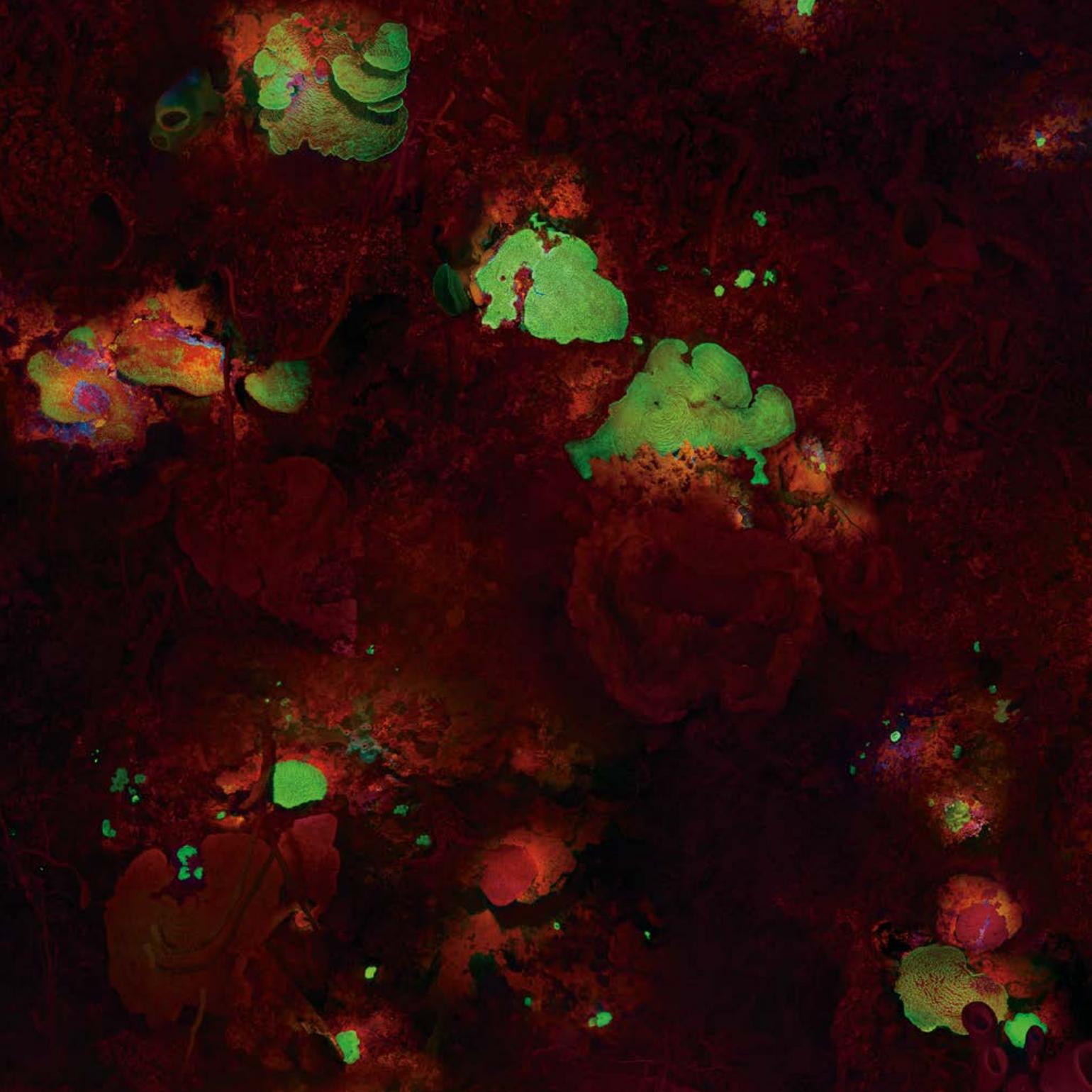
Limited Edition of 50



Caribbean Reef Sharks circle a stranger in the open ocean.
Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
Sizes available 18 X 48 | 22 X 60 | 26 X 70 | 34 X 90 | 40 X 110



"The Blue 4" Little Cayman

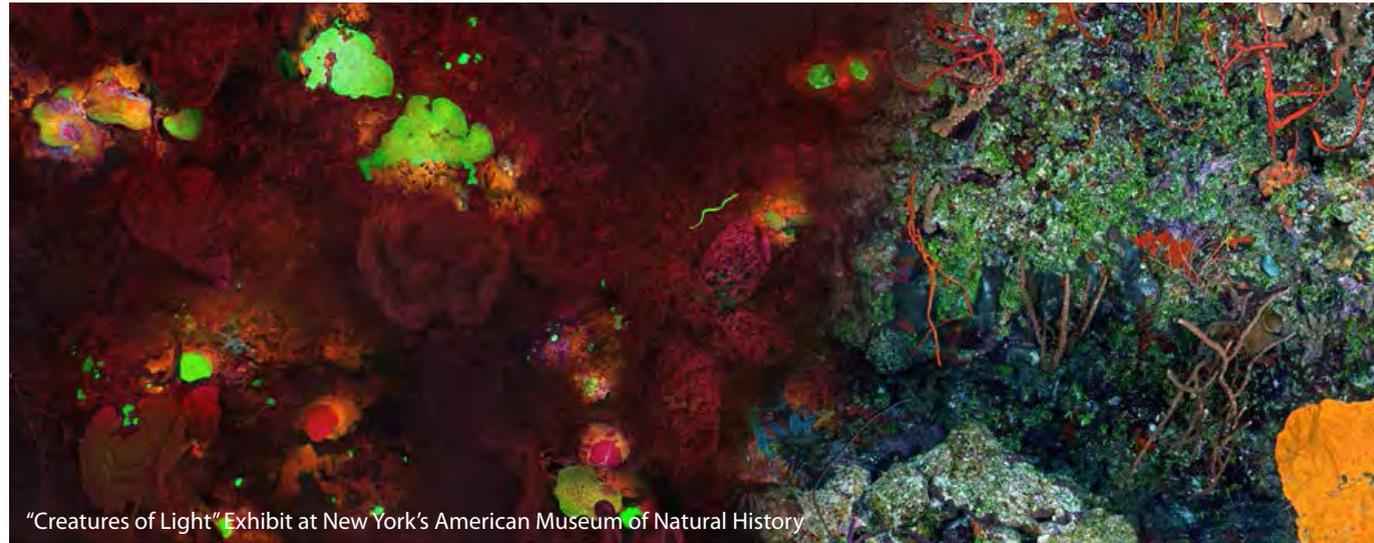


Coral Fluorescence Collection

What started with science has become colorful art.

Working with marine scientists on a mission to record the fluorescent emissions of living coral for an exhibit on biofluorescence and bioluminescence, Jim Hellebrunn created a life-size resolution image of a Caribbean coral reef showing the living corals in bright green fluorescence, and along the way, documented green fluorescent properties in a species that was unknown to science before.

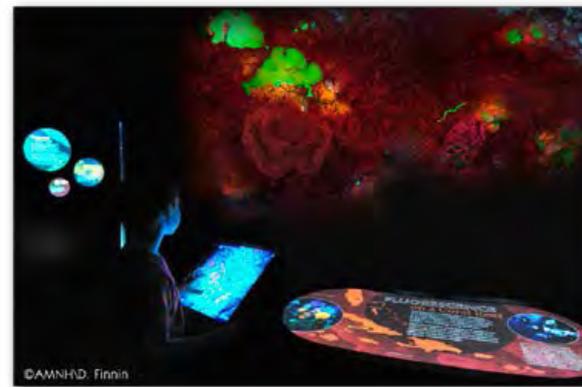
The exhibit "Creatures of Light" opened in 2013 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, with plans to travel to other museums and science centers around the world. In 2017, the green fluorescent eel was featured in a NOVA television documentary called "Creatures of Light".



“Creatures of Light” Exhibit at New York’s American Museum of Natural History

Some of the coral reef projects have involved marine science and researchers who work in these special places. In 2010 Jim Hellemn’s “Return to Bloody Bay” project documented the Great Wall West site again a decade later – this time working with marine scientists at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute, who are studying the changes on this Little Cayman reef, and filmmaker David Conover, who produced a short film documenting the project, which is now touring museums and science centers. Working with another pair of scientists, David Gruber and Vincent Pieribone, who are studying coral fluorescence, Jim produced a fluorescence version of the reef wall as well, leading to an exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History. “Creatures of Light” was one of the museums most successful exhibits ever. The documentary “Exploring Bloody Bay Wall” made it’s first appearance at the Smithsonian in March 2012, and later was a winner at the 2012 Blue film festival in San Francisco.

The high resolution images produced for this project are available for licensing for use in architectural or custom art projects. They can be reproduced as custom art in any cropping and size. Individual fine art prints are available from this project in sizes up to 120”



Sponsors: *Little Cayman Beach Resort*
National Science Foundation
American Museum of Natural History

“Great Wall Coral Fluorescence”

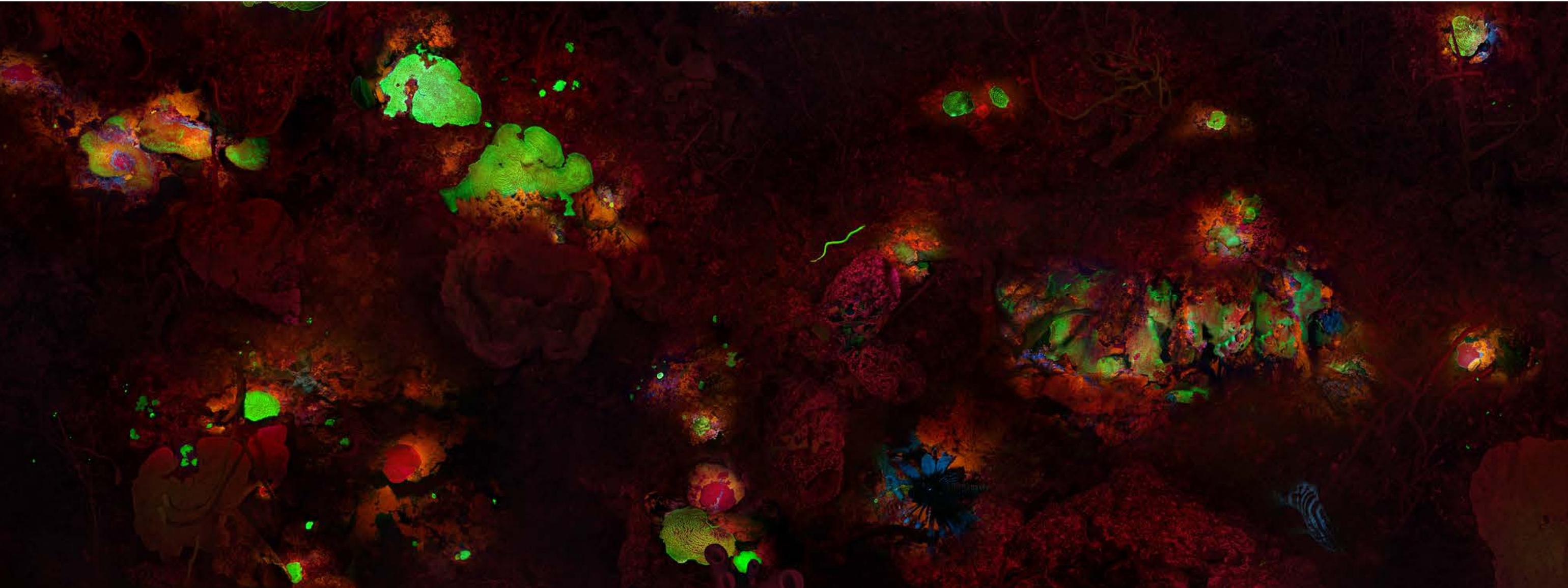
Fine Art Print on Aluminum



Living corals at Bloody Bay Wall glow green when illuminated with pure blue light. The protein responsible is one of the most important areas of biomedical research today, using the properties of the proteins sampled from living corals. With these proteins inserted into the cells of living tissue, researchers can see what happens with the human body on a cellular level. Working with scientists studying coral fluorescence, this image was produced in 2011 with a grant from the National Science Foundation and support from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Using a specific frequency of pure blue light to illuminate the corals on Great Wall West in Little Cayman at night, the entire 20 ft by 70 ft area of the original Great Wall West image was photographed in several hundred overlapping frames, recording the fluorescence from the living corals at life size resolution. The art print cropped from the full image has enough resolution to be reproduced at high quality at a size of 30 - 50 feet wide!

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.

Sizes available 18 X 48 | 22 X 60 | 26 X 70 | 34 X 90 | 40 X 110



"Great Wall Coral Fluorescence" Little Cayman



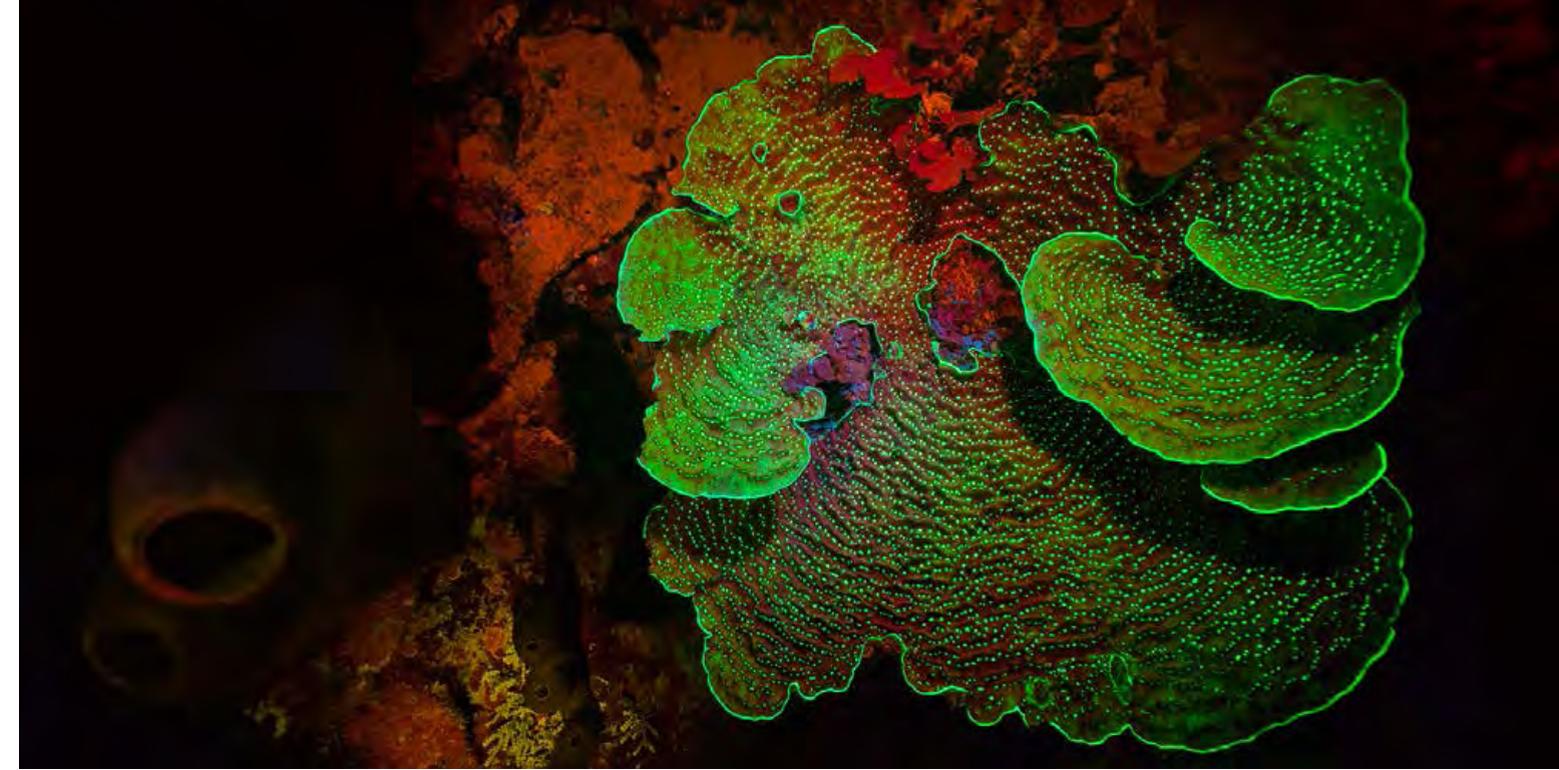
“Gleaming Tower”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum and Canvas



A towering coralhead stands tall on the edge of a reef wall in Little Cayman, covered with hundreds or thousands of polyps that glow green at night when excited by pure blue light..

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish. Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
 Sizes available 24 X 48 | 30 X 60 | 36 X 72



“Shimmering Polyps”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum and Canvas



A large sheet coral is trimmed in fluorescent green with the individual polyps appearing as bright spots scattered over the surface of the coral substrate. The glow is emitted by a protein in the individual coral polyps that gives off the green glow in response to a blue light shining on it. A filter at the camera lens blocks the blue light and records any other color.

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish.
 Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
 Sizes available 16 X 24 | 20 X 30 | 28 X 42 | 32 X 48



“The Octopus and the Eel”

Fine Art Print on Aluminum and Canvas



This little eel has become a bit famous in the marine science world of fluorescence and was featured in a 2017 NOVA special called “Creatures of Light” on TV. The little fluorescent eel was captured by accident while I was photographing coral fluorescence on Bloody Bay Wall with a team of scientists for an exhibit at the New York Natural History Museum. I didn’t even see the eel, just the brilliant flash of my special strobes, that emit a pure blue light to excite the corals, which glow a bright green in response. Going through the images later, I discovered the eel brightly showing the same green fluorescent glow as the corals. The scientists thought I was playing a trick on them. The glowing eel started the scientists on a new path studying fluorescence in fish and animals. Now they are finding that a huge number of marine animals have this same glowing fluorescence - even turtles!

Giclée print, UV Gloss finish.
 Recessed aluminum frame with hanger.
 Sizes available 16 X 24 | 20 X 30 | 28 X 42 | 32 X 48



photo: Jason Belport



Prints available online at:
www.blueoceanart.com

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