



During the **Golden Age** (17th century) the Dutch nation became one of the **wealthiest** and most **powerful** countries in the **world**.

With the **East India Company** (VOC), trade blossomed. Famous Dutch masters like **Rembrandt**, **Vermeer** & **de Heem** thrived and **Royal Delft Blue** is the only remaining original **pottery** dating from the 17th century.

This was the inspiration for:

*Aronk*art
INSPIRED BY THE GOLDEN AGE





Arrouk art

THE GREATEST MASTERPIECES WERE ONCE ONLY PIGMENTS

BEAUTIFUL COLOURS HIDDEN AWAY FROM OUR EYES
FOR 350 YEARS HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION FOR:

REMBRANDT'S SECRETS REVEALED

The number of pigments available to **17th century** artists was very limited.

Rembrandt used only **12 main pigments** throughout his career.

At that time **The Netherlands** was the center for the manufacturing of pigments. The red pigment **carmine**, was obtained from crushed cochineal beetles that came from Central and South America, burnt animal bones were the raw material for **bone black** and **smalt** (the blue pigment) was made from pulverized glass.

This **work of art** will give you the same experience as Rembrandt had before he started his masterworks.

THE PAST BROUGHT TO LIFE!



ROYAL DELFT BLUE
UNFOLDED

Aronkart
INSPIRED BY THE GOLDEN AGE

ROYAL DELFT BLUE

During the **Dutch Golden Age**, the East India Company (VOC) had a lively **trade** with the East and imported **Chinese porcelain** in the early 17th century.

The Chinese workmanship and attention to detail impressed many. Only **the richest** could afford the early **imports**.

Potters saw an opportunity to produce a cheap alternative for Chinese porcelain.

ROYAL DELFT BLUE was born.



ROYAL BLUE

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 126x126 cm

The **blue pigment** that was used for the famous **Delft Blue or Delft pottery** is a **cobalt oxide**.

We have succeeded in making it clear that **Delft Blue** has acquired a **Dutch character**, based on traditional **Dutch craftsmanship**.

At the same time we recognize the **Chinese origin** of our Delft blue.

This is how we connect **China** and the **Netherlands**."



WOLKJE MELK

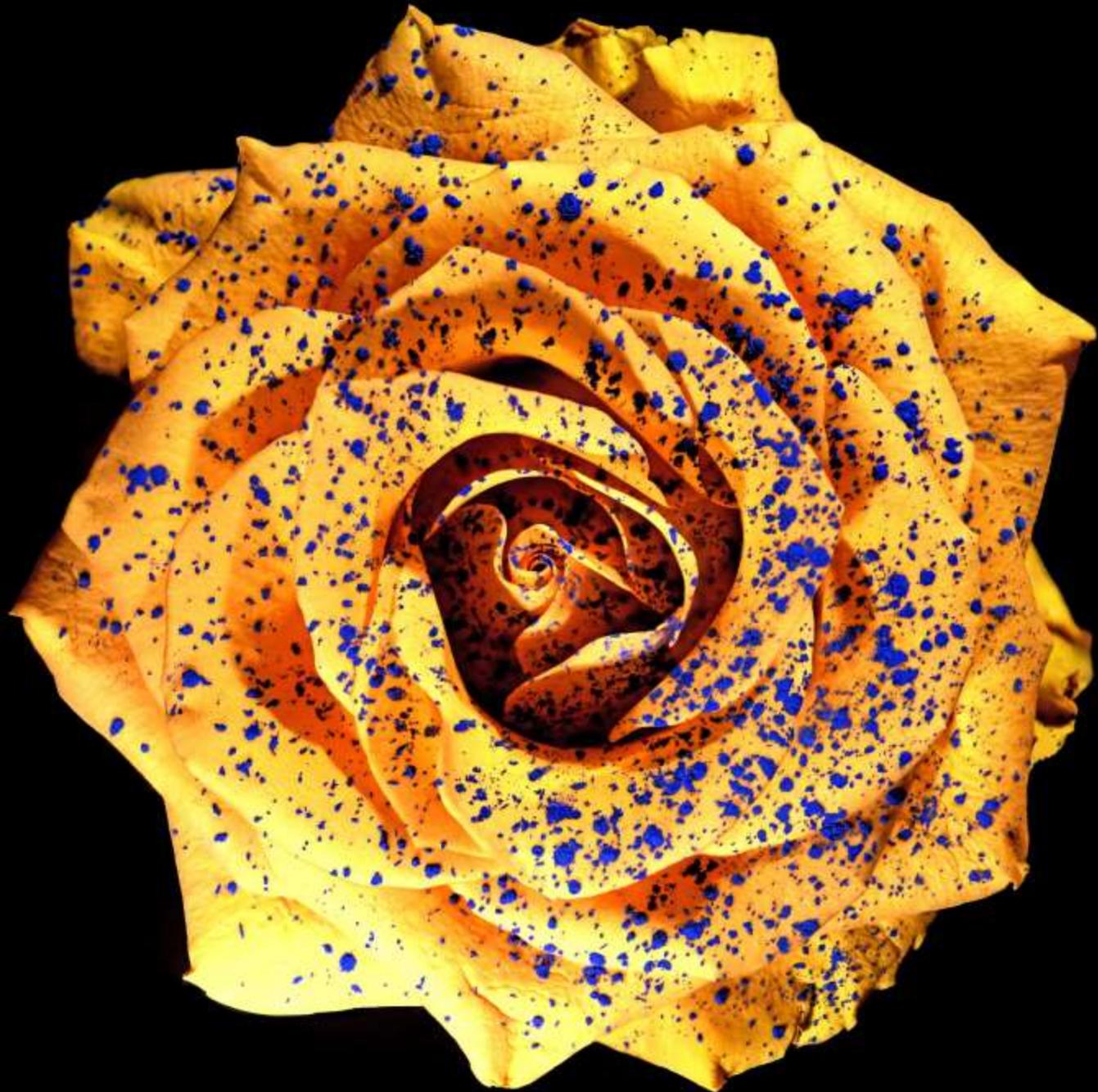
(cloud of milk)

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 147x147 cm

A beautiful **tea moment** that often goes unnoticed.
Served in an original Delft Blue **teacup**.

Have you seen **Vermeer's Milkmaid**?
Vermeer was also inspired by **milk & Delft Blue**.



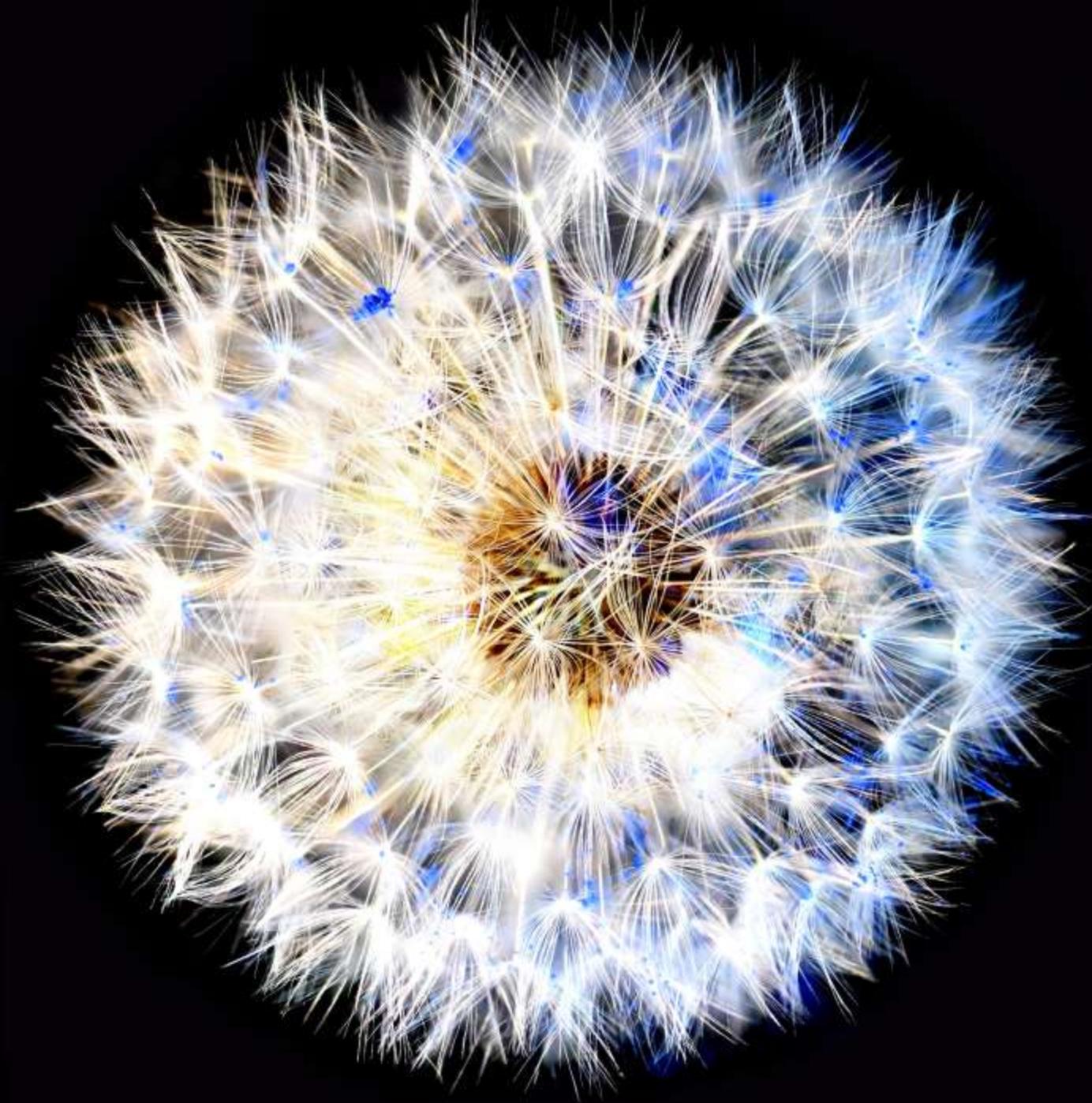
BEAUTY & THE BEAST

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 126x126 cm

A beautiful **yellow rose** with a dash of Royal **Delft Blue**.
Yellow roses are a traditional symbol of **friendship**.

Long associated with **the sun** and its life-giving warmth,
yellow is the age-old spokes-color for
warm feelings of **friendship** and **optimism**.



MAKE A WISH

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 126x126 cm

Dandelions are thought to have evolved about 30 million years ago.

As dandelions turn to seed, **children** everywhere rush to pick them, so that they can close their eyes, **make a wish**, and blow the seeds **into the air**.

If you can blow all the seeds off a dandelion with a **single breath**, then your wish will **come true**.

In addition to granting wishes, many people believe that dandelion seeds will carry your **thoughts and dreams** to loved ones when you blow them into the air.



VERMEER'S TEACUP

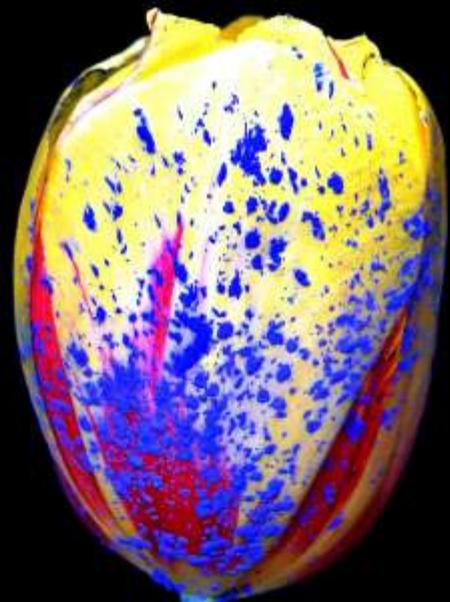
(cloud of milk)

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 137x137 cm

The **reflection** in the red coral beads show the spectaculair **grand windows** of Huys ten Donck.

Have you seen **Vermeer's Girl with Pearl Earring**?
Vermeer was also inspired by **reflection**.



TULIP MANIA



LADY IN RED



DUTCH TULIP

DUTCH TULIPS

with a pinch of original Delft Blue Pigment

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

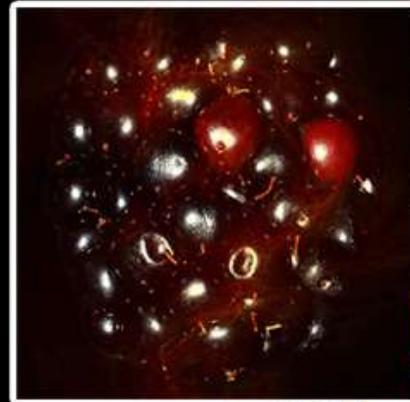
Framed Size 87x192cm

Tulip mania was a period in the Golden Age during which **prices** for some **tulip bulbs** reached extraordinarily **high levels**.

At the peak of tulip mania, in February 1637, some single tulip bulbs **sold** for more than 10 times the **annual income** of a skilled crafts worker.

Its **popularity** and **cultivation** in the Netherlands is generally thought to have started **around 1593** after botanist Carolus Clusius had taken up a post at the **University of Leiden** and established the hortus academicus. He planted his collection of **tulip bulbs** and found they were able to tolerate the harsher conditions of the **Low Countries**; shortly thereafter, the tulip began to grow in popularity.

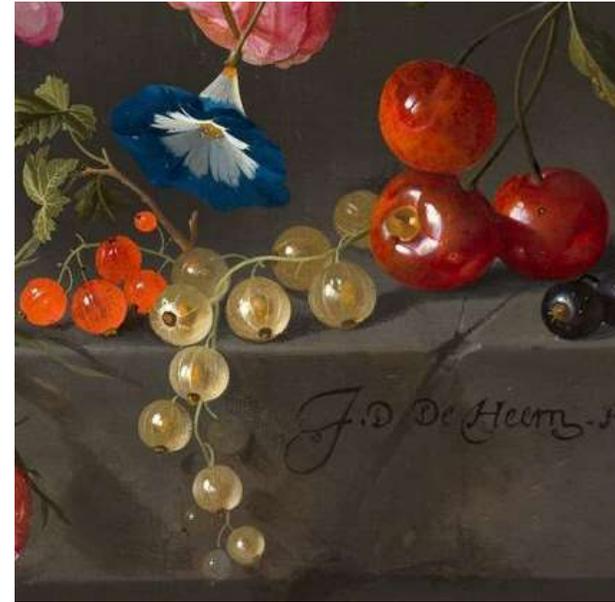
The appearance of the tulip as a **status symbol** at this time coincides with the rise of newly independent Holland's trade fortunes of the Golden Age.



JAN DAVIDSZ DE HEEM (1606-1684) was regarded as one of the most important still life painters of the Golden Age.

He was specialized in flower and banquet still lifes that were enthusiastically collected by aristocrats and wealthy merchants.

Vaas met bloemen (Mauritshuis collection) has been the inspiration for 7 modern artworks.



A FAMILY

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 80x80 cm

De Heem had the ability to display **nature** in great **detail**.
'A family' was inspired by the **fruits** on de Heem's still life.



BLACKBERRY

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 80x80 cm

Blackberry was inspired by the **fruits** on de Heem's still life.

Nowadays the works of de Heem are mainly to be found
in **The National Gallery** in London,
the **Mauritshuis** and the **Rijksmuseum**.



All insects used for these artworks come from insect farms.



MAGICAL 7

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 147x147 cm

Known as the '**king of the flowers**',
the peony is a symbol of royalty and virtue.

It is also called the 'flower of wealth and honour' (fuguihua 富貴花)
and is widely used to represent **wealth** and **honour**.
Inspired by this **flower** (peony) and the golden age **insects**,
Magical 7 was born.

350 years after de Heem painted this **highly detailed** still life,
all of the **insects** painted in this still life, **still exist** today.

Can you find the **7 magical insects**?



All insects used for these artworks come from insect farms.



PAPILLION DE HOLLANDE

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 126x126 cm

The old-world swallowtail (**Koninginnenpage**) is one of the largest **butterflies** found in **Belgium** and **The Netherlands**. The Chinese animal symbol Butterfly represents a **long life**.

Even though it was only documented in 1758 (according to Wikipedia), we can already find this beautiful **butterfly** on de Heems's still life dating from 1670.



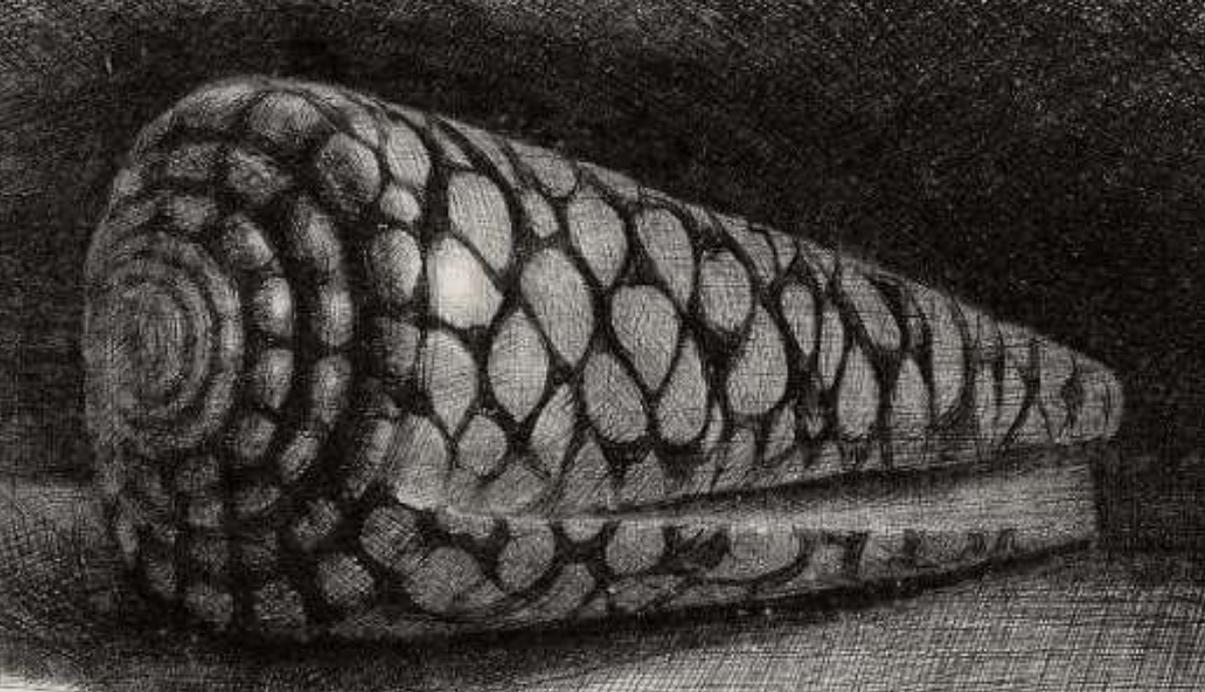
HOME SWEET HOME

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 80x80 cm

Snails have been around for a while. They appeared about **150 million** years ago. Way, way back in the days, **human beings** as we know them did not even exist yet.

They **survive** almost everything and adapt well. If every animal had its own theme song, then that of the snails was undoubtedly "**Survivor**".



Rembrandt's MISTAKE

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 77x54 cm

De schelp is an etching by Rembrandt van Rijn from 1650.
It is the only still life he ever etched.

The *Conus marmoreus* is a cone shell in which **the spiral** is always wound in the same direction, **always clockwise**.

However, Rembrandt copied the shell exactly on the copper plate, he only placed his **signature in mirror** copy beforehand. The mirror image was printed by the etching technique and the shell appears to rotate **counterclockwise**.

The shell came from his **own collection** of exotic shells. Creating such collections was popular with **the bourgeoisie** in the 17th century.

Rembrandt made the etching on a **copper plate** with a **dry needle**. The work, with dimensions 97 by 129 mm, belongs to the **Rijksmuseum collection**.



BUSY BEE

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 97x157 cm

Every spring, when the first **poppies** are spotted again, the **bees** come out for a **visit**.

Bees love poppies, despite the fact that they don't produce sugary sweet **nectar**, because poppies are a fantastic source of **pollen**.

Poppies **bloom** from mid-June right through to October.



GOLDEN SCARAB

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 87x117 cm

In the 16th century the **Spanish conquistadors**, who had already mastered a lot of gold, learned from the Indians of a **king** who would bathe in a **lake** and would end his bath completely **covered in gold**: the Golden Man or **El (Hombre) Dorado** in Spanish.

They immediately went in search of this **gold lake** (Parima). Possibly the Indians told the legend especially to get rid of the **gold diggers**, but then that story has nevertheless been counterproductive: it actually attracted **many adventurers**.

The news spread quickly and many **expeditions** were set up, not only by the Spaniards but also by the **Dutch**, French and English.

When the Spaniards came to **Costa Rica**, they saw these **GOLDEN BEETLES**.

This was the reason that they thought they had found the **mythical El Dorado**. El Dorado proved to be **untraceable**.



NATURAL BEAUTY

EDITION OF 7 +1 Artist's Proof

Framed Size 97x157 cm

The **Chrysochroa aurora** (found in Asia) is a family of beetles known as **jewel beetles** because of their **glossy iridescent colors**.

These beautiful creatures are surprisingly well **camouflaged**.

The **leafy** environment of this beetles is often **illuminated** by flashes of **sunlight** as **breezes** move through the trees.

The **glistening surfaces** of these beetles blend in well with the beetles' surroundings.

The larger and more **spectacularly colored** jewel beetles are highly prized by **insect collectors**.

In the Golden age the VOC (**Dutch East India Company**) established a trade network between the various trading posts in the Asian region.

We will never know if they also encountered these **Natural Beauties**.
Documenting insects only started many years later...

*Amouk*art



INSPIRED BY THE GOLDEN AGE

