

Beautiful Decay Book 5: Psychonauts

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In my childhood, I never got the chance to believe in fantastical things. I was never convinced that Santa Claus or the tooth fairy existed. Ghosts, specters, and imaginary worlds belonged to other children, who wildly fantasized about faraway lands and amazing characters that could fulfill every desire, while I only trusted in things I could see. As an adult, this seems to me like an awful place for a child to be. The childhood embrace of magic and mystery leaves nothing unwanted—every dream and horror is vividly present in the mind.

While the physical world is a fine place, the world of dreams provides an uncanny connection between the past, present, and future unmatched by day-to-day life on Earth. So when encountering an artist who fully embraces this other world, my mind instantly starts exploring the connection between fantasy, myth, and visualization—a place ripe with both imagination and interpretation. And the work of Christopher Davison does just this. A magical combination of media and image-making, Davison's drawings and paintings delicately balance dream and reality, emotion and narrative. While many artists these days need to rationalize their material choices, his process accentuates the spatial and visual interpretations of his imagery. His work intuitively moves between media with ease—drawing from the language of painting, drawing, and printmaking to mold these three worlds into something uniquely its own.

Davison's multiplicity of media successfully binds the worlds that the imagery creates, perfectly merging the visual depiction of dream space and reality. Each image is rooted in a familiar environment, yet the dimension remains complex and unrecognizable. The dark palette and varied