

# MICHAEL HOPPEN

## PRESS RELEASE

TEFAF Maastricht 12-19 March 2027

Daniel Crouch Rare Books & Michael Hoppen Gallery  
Present *Cities, like dreams*

"Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules are absurd, and their perspectives deceitful." — *Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities*

Maastricht, March 2026 — At TEFAF Maastricht 2026, Daniel Crouch Rare Books and Michael Hoppen Gallery join forces to present *Cities, like dreams*, an unprecedented dialogue between Enlightenment cartography and contemporary photography. Through a series of ten pairings, the exhibition explores how urban landscapes are shaped as much by imagination as by design, tracing the evolving ways that cities are mapped, seen, and remembered.

At its heart, *Cities, like dreams* juxtaposes monumental eighteenth-century town plans—icons of clarity and reason—with the intricate photographic dioramas of Japanese artist **Sohei Nishino**, whose works reconstruct cities through thousands of images taken on foot during his long, intuitive wanderings. The result is a poetic conversation between past and present, mapping and memory, geometry and emotion.

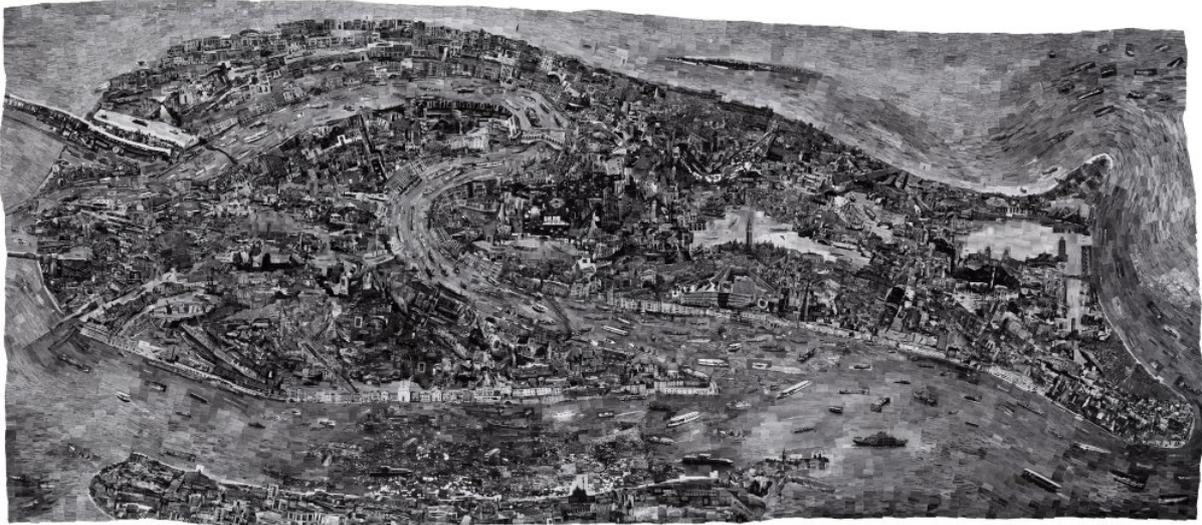
The exhibition features exceptional cartographic masterworks: John Rocque's vast *Plan of London* (1746); Louis Bretez and Michel-Étienne Turgot's bird's-eye *Plan de Paris* (1739); Bernard Ratzer's *Plan of New York* (1767); Suharaya Mohe's *Map of Edo* (Tokyo, eighteenth century); Ludovico Ughi's meticulous plan of Venice (1729); Daniel Stalpaert's *Platte-Grondt van de Oude en Nieuwe Royinge der Stat Amsterdam* (1720); Samuel von Schmettau's *Kupferkarte von Berlin* (1748); and Giovanni Battista Nolli's groundbreaking *Pianta Grande di Roma* (1748). Each work marks a triumph of Enlightenment rationality and craftsmanship - a vision of the city as knowable, ordered, and complete.

In dialogue with them, Nishino's *Diorama Maps* of **London, Paris, New York, Tokyo, Venice, Amsterdam, Berlin, and Rome** transform those same cities into fluid, dreamlike constellations. Constructed from thousands of overlapping photographs, his collages dissolve linear perspective and replace accuracy with intimacy. The city becomes an accumulation of moments, footsteps, and memories - an atlas not of streets, but of experience.

By uniting these contrasting visions, *Cities, like dreams* reveals that every map is also a mirror: a record of human desire, fear, and the eternal search to give form to the invisible. Through the collaboration of **Daniel Crouch Rare Books**, specialists in rare and historic maps, and **Michael Hoppen Gallery**, leaders in contemporary photographic art, the exhibition transforms TEFAF into a cartographic theatre of time - an invitation to see that cities, like dreams, are never truly finished.

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Sohei Nishino  
*Diorama Map Venice, 2026*



Accompanied by a titled, signed and editioned artist's label  
Archival pigment print  
Paper size: 100 x 219.4 cm  
Edition 1/15 + 2 APs  
(29854-NIS)

TEFAF Maastricht marks the first presentation of Sohei Nishino's latest Diorama map: Venice. This fragile and unique city has now been preserved in over 450 rolls of film and will be exhibited alongside Nishino's key cities made over the past two decades. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to Venice in Peril, a charity that champions the preservation of Venice's rich cultural heritage. In making his Diorama maps, Sohei Nishino combines photography, collage, cartography and psychogeography to create large photographic studies of urban landscapes. Drawing inspiration from the 18th century Japanese mapmaker, Inō Tadataka, Nishino re-imagines the cities he studies.

Nishino's work will be exhibited in dialogue with important maps of the same cities from the 1700-1800s, drawn from the collection of Daniel Crouch Rare Books.

"I walk through these cities, camera in hand, capturing multi-faceted views that I then combine, one by one, in accordance with my memories, arranging them into a map that portrays all the singular aspects of the place. The result is quite different from the denotative expression of a map; it uses photographs (single 35mm frames) of concrete objects or shapes as units to recreate a geographical representation, expressing the city through human memories and images. This means that the finished work is anything but an accurate map, it is simply the town as seen through the eyes of a single individual, a trace of the way in which I walked through it, an embodiment of my awareness, a microcosm of the life and energy that comprise the city." - SOHEI NISHINO

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Sohei Nishino  
*Diorama Map Amsterdam, 2014*



Accompanied by a titled, signed and editioned artist's label

Light jet print on Kodak Endura paper

Paper size: 180.3 x 205 cm

Framed Size: 190 x 215 cm

AP2 from a sold-out edition of 5

(29815-NIS)

10 PORTLAND ROAD LONDON W11 4LA

T: +44 (0)20 7352 3649 E:GALLERY@MICHAELHOPPENGALLERY.COM WWW.MICHAELHOPPENGALLERY.COM

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NO: 3790682 VAT NO: 394590512

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Sohei Nishino  
*Diorama Map London 2010*



Signed in ink on verso by the artist  
Accompanied by a signed, titled, dated and editioned label from the artist  
Light jet print on Kodak Endura Paper  
Paper Size: 128 x 230 cm  
Framed Size: 140 x 241 cm  
AP1 from a sold-out edition of 5  
(21412-NIS)