

Interrobang 11232
734a 4th ave, brooklyn, ny
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985-705-3337

Brian Cotnoir

in a dark wood

opening: Sunday May 3, 5—8pm

by appointment: May 3—June 29, 2026

'in a dark wood' focuses on a photographic sequence of the same name produced in 1994 using pinhole cameras, and a unique book entitled *'Holy Shit, A Book of the Dead'* made in 2023.

Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita
mi ritrovai per una selva oscura,
che la dritta via era smarrita.

In the middle of the road of our life
I woke to find myself in a dark wood
Where the right way was lost.

— Dante, *The Divine Comedy: The Inferno*, Canto I

L'acqua ch'io prendo già mai non si corse;
Minerva spira, e conducemi Apollo,
e nove Muse mi dimostran l'Orse.

The sea I sail has never been sailed before,
Minerva fills my sails and Apollo guides me,
And the nine Muses show me the Bears.

— Dante, *The Divine Comedy: Paradise*, Canto II

The pinhole photographs and the visual composition, or poem, were made in 1994. I worked with a homemade 35mm pinhole camera to explore the alchemical idea of ascent to the "one" through descent into matter, into the world, into the body. This descent begins with an opening. It is the indeterminacy of the pinhole photographic medium - light and silver, space (larger circles of confusion) and time (long exposures) -- that allow for the dissolution of borders, space, and body. It is this that permits various readings of a particular spread of space and time to arise. And so, through this opening, enter a place, not of "either/or" but a place of "both/and".

— Brian Cotnoir

Brian Cotnoir is an alchemist, artist, and filmmaker. Cotnoir is the author of *Practical Alchemy: Guide to the Great Work*, *The Emerald Tablet*, a series of Alchemical 'Zines, *Alchemical Meditations*, *Alchemy: The Poetry of Matter* and (most recently) *On Alchemy: Essential Practices and Making Art as Alchemy*. He has presented seminars and workshops around the world. Cotnoir started Khepri Press in 2014 as a place to organize and distribute his work. Some of this work is publishable and others may exist only in manuscript or object form – alchemical results or talismans.

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Brian Cotnoir
My Mystic Hand, 2023
lead, gold, silver, cinnabar, wood
6.5 x 6 inches

Brian Cotnoir
Abyss, 2023
glass, silver, wood
7.5 x 6 inches

Brian Cotnoir
Dante's Rose, 2023
lead, gold, wood
6.5 x 6 inches

Brian Cotnoir
in a dark wood, 1994
13 parts, black and white pinhole photographs
each: 6 x 8.75 inches

Brian Cotnoir
Holy Shit, A Book of the Dead, 2023
unique book, mixed media, wood, metal, butchers paper, ink
closed: 12 x 8 x 1 inches, open: 12 x 16 x .5 inches

Brian Cotnoir
they come that way, 2024
text, black and white pinhole photograph
16.25 x 13 inches

Brian Cotnoir
the angel said, 2026
text, black and white pinhole photograph
16.25 x 13 inches

Brian Cotnoir
The Fountain, 2003
black and white pinhole photograph
8.25 x 6 inches, framed: 16.25 x 13 inches