

FINANCIAL TIMES

Snapshot: Saul Fletcher at the Anton Kern Gallery

The self-taught photographer's work weaves memories of the past with his present life in Berlin, his home for 20 years

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"I use whatever I have to hand, trying to create something, trying to make something good out of something bad," says Saul Fletcher, a British artist known for his macabre photographic images. His pictures — of men and women with blank stares, despondent pets, scatters of dead plants — can be both nightmarish and serene.

A self-taught photographer, Fletcher grew up in rural Lincolnshire and spent six years ferrying coal to and from cargo ships in Hull. His work weaves memories of the past with his present life in Berlin, his home for 20 years.

Printed at an unusually small scale, his work forces the viewer to step closer and form a disquieting intimacy with scenes that blend the everyday with the Gothic.

Abstract painters led the emergence of American art into international prominence in the decade following World War II. Notable sculptors were few and far between.

But hold on, this sprawling exhibition says. Not so fast.



'Untitled #251 (Woody)' (2012) © Saul Fletcher