



# IDLE QUARTERS

Sandy Mclea

# about

Idle Quarters collection takes a unique look at eerie abandoned spaces such as old ghost houses like those found in Kolmanskop. These 'photographic relief dioramas' are masterfully constructed into a three dimensional visual effect that draws you into the image creating a presence of reality.

The traditional two dimensional media of photography portrays a realistic interpretation of a scene which remains flat, but these artworks push this form of reality even further by creating relief dioramas from original photography. Much of the artwork is made from bending and joining cut out prints of the walls, floor and doors at an angle. With added details around hidden corners it is possible to see more of the scene from an angle, further enhancing the interaction with the viewer and creating a unique representation of what the rooms of the houses really looked like. This creates an unexpected twist to the static medium of photography and brings activity to the dioramas atmosphere, Mclea also skillfully includes altering light changes in a few of the artworks, some dioramas even go as far as having moving parts. These effects happen infrequently and unexpectedly to create a feeling of anticipation, surrealism, and presence, plus they immediately draw attention.

Discarding preconceived ideas of photography, Mclea translates the atmosphere in the labyrinth of rooms and captures ambience and emotion rather than just a photographic image.

These works can only really be appreciated when seen in real life. Inspirational - to say the least.





IDLE QUARTERS  
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BLUE ROOM



DOORWAYS

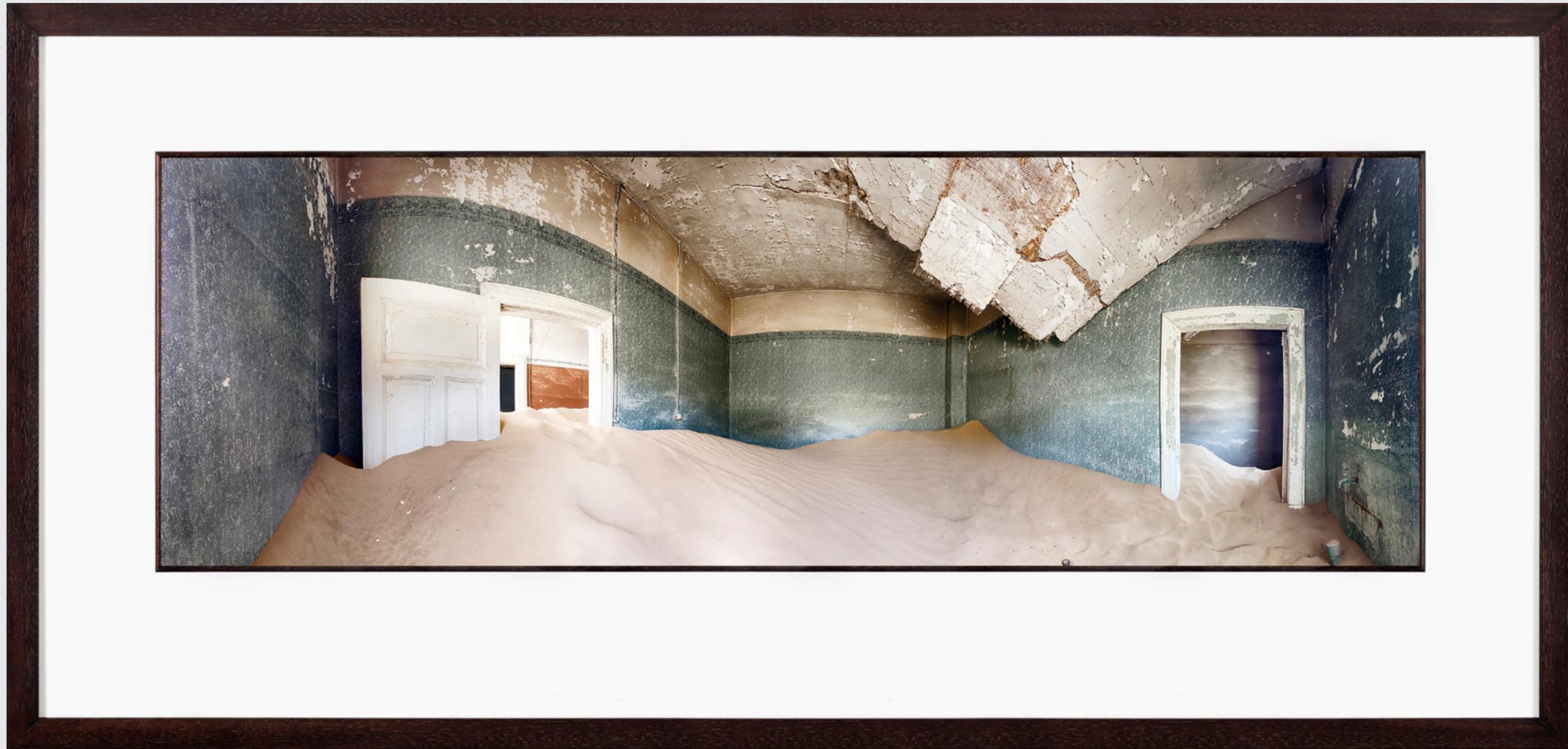


LOST ROOM



SUNKEN ROOM









WINDOW LIGHT



# sandy mclea

McLea's childhood saw him travelling across an array of landscapes that eventually piqued his interest in visual imagery. Armed with an SLR camera, he began exploring the medium of photography, which led him to study at the National College of Photography, from which he graduated in 2005. His world view has inspired him to push the boundaries of creativity in interpreting and representing "what the lens sees". At a young age, he has developed a unique visual style that defines his imagery and gives his photography widespread appeal. Panoramic landscapes and city scenes have been the inspiration for Sandy McLea to express his artistic passion in an engaging photomontage series, created over a six year period. The series depicts scenes as varied as graffiti on the streets of Barcelona, harbours and light houses in Cape Town and the desolate vistas of the Karoo. The simplicity of each image belies the painstaking effort that goes into its creation. Very often McLea takes hundreds of photographs of his subject from different parallel vantage points, subtly altering focus, perspective and exposure from one image to the next. Of these, a few images are selected for the final composition, which are then printed and laid out on a work table in his studio. This informal grouping is spread out and lay there, often for weeks on end, before the final arrangement crystallizes in the artist's mind. Delicate adjustments are made from day to day until he is pleased with the assemblage. Lines and subject definition are carefully overlapped and then masterfully repeated to create a rhythmic kaleidoscopic effect. Also part of the series are unique "hand assembled" photomontages, where physical prints are grouped together and pasted on a backing board to create a unique three dimensional illustration. Mclea's latest portfolio of pinhole photography, printed on aluminum plates, is certainly his most challenging body of work to date. Using a simply hand built lens-less camera, he has photographed a series of broody seascapes in Ireland and Cape Town, on film. Prints are made onto an aluminum substrate leaving the images with a wonderful metallic feel. Varied subjects and experimental techniques is what drives his creative impression, yet he has successfully been able to deliver a defined artistic impression that is unique to him and his work.



## \*Price Guide

### Blue Room | Sunken Room | Doorways | Lost Room

Size 45 x 30cm

Editions AP & 1-3 R 28000 | 4-6 R 32000 | 7 POA

### Window Light

Size 65 x 30cm

Editions AP & 1-3 R 38000 | 4-6 R 44000 | 7 POA

### Pasing Sands | Exposed Rooms

Size 90 x 30cm

Edition AP & 1-3 R 45000 | 4-6 R 50000 | 7 POA

### Passage Way

Size 120 x 30cm

Editions AP & 1-3 R 52000 | 4-6 R 60000 | 7 POA

\*Prices quoted are a guide only.  
Contact us to confirm exact pricing and availability.  
Prices may change without prior notice. E&OE



## 'IDLE QUARTERS' BY SANDY MCLEA

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Blue Room    | 5 - Exposed Rooms |
| 2 - Window Light | 6 - Doorways      |
| 3 - Sunken Room  | 7 - Passageway    |
| 4 - Pasing Sands | 8 - Lost Room     |





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FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY

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