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**Maxime Matthys, *Image #6* from the series *Melatonin***

The next photograph I am going to describe is called *Image #6*. It is part of the series called *Melatonin*. It was taken in 2019 using an iPhone 7+.

It is a transparent print, which is displayed on a lightbox. The print measures 15cm in width, and 20cm in height. This is a little smaller than an A5 piece of paper ... or a piece of A4 paper folded in half.

This is a dark photograph, made up of turquoise blues, dark greys and black. The subject is a close-up of two hands clasped around a mobile phone ... poised as if writing a text ... their thumbs arched over the bottom of the phone screen.

It is difficult to make out what is in the background ... which helps me to understand how the photograph has been taken. As mentioned, it was taken using an iPhone. The quality of the image is chalky and out of focus. All the details are a little blurry ... as if the photograph was taken on the most zoomed-in setting. When I look through my own iPhone camera at the most zoomed-in setting ... things begin to look the same ... the edges and textures of things become less defined. In the background of this image, I initially thought I was seeing a curtain due to the many vertical lines ... hanging in a way that reminded me of the vertical contours of a thick hanging curtain. Four of the most prominent vertical lines in the photograph look as if they could be two metal poles at slight angles. The one on our right is thinner than the one on our left. The one on our left is at the very left edge of the photograph.

The hands are in the foreground of the photograph. The person's left hand is closer to the camera than the right, as the photograph has been taken at the person's left side. It is as if the photographer was standing or sitting alongside the person and turned to their right to take the photo. Of course, ... the photographer must have actually been slightly further away to allow for the phone camera zoom.

The hands are in the bottom half of the photograph, and the phone pokes into the top half ... but doesn't fill it. We only see the hands of the person, and a little bit of the end of each long sleeve around their wrists. Their sleeves are black, and their hands glow a florescent turquoise blue, which is darker between the wrist and their thumbs, and lighter between their index finger and their thumbs. The rest of their fingers are underneath the phone ... out of shot ... supporting the phone.

The phone itself is a smart phone with a large screen. There is a small oval shaped button at the bottom centre of the screen, and a selfie-camera on upper left of the screen ... as well as a speaker. The screen is cracked diagonally in two places, from the bottom right corner to the upper left side... and from part way up the bottom left side down to the bottom right corner ... It is mostly black, apart from these cracks which ripple across it with a grey glow. We cannot see what is displayed on the screen.

As I mentioned at the start of this description, this photograph is from a series called *Melatonin*. The artist took the photographs in this series on a train in the Shanghai subway. He then used a digital process to isolate the blue light from the other colours coming from people's phone screens.

The artist said:

The users get then plunged into dark, which embodies how disconnected from the outside world we are while scrolling on our phones. The blue light is then used as paint to reveal the faces and the bodies of the smartphones users.