

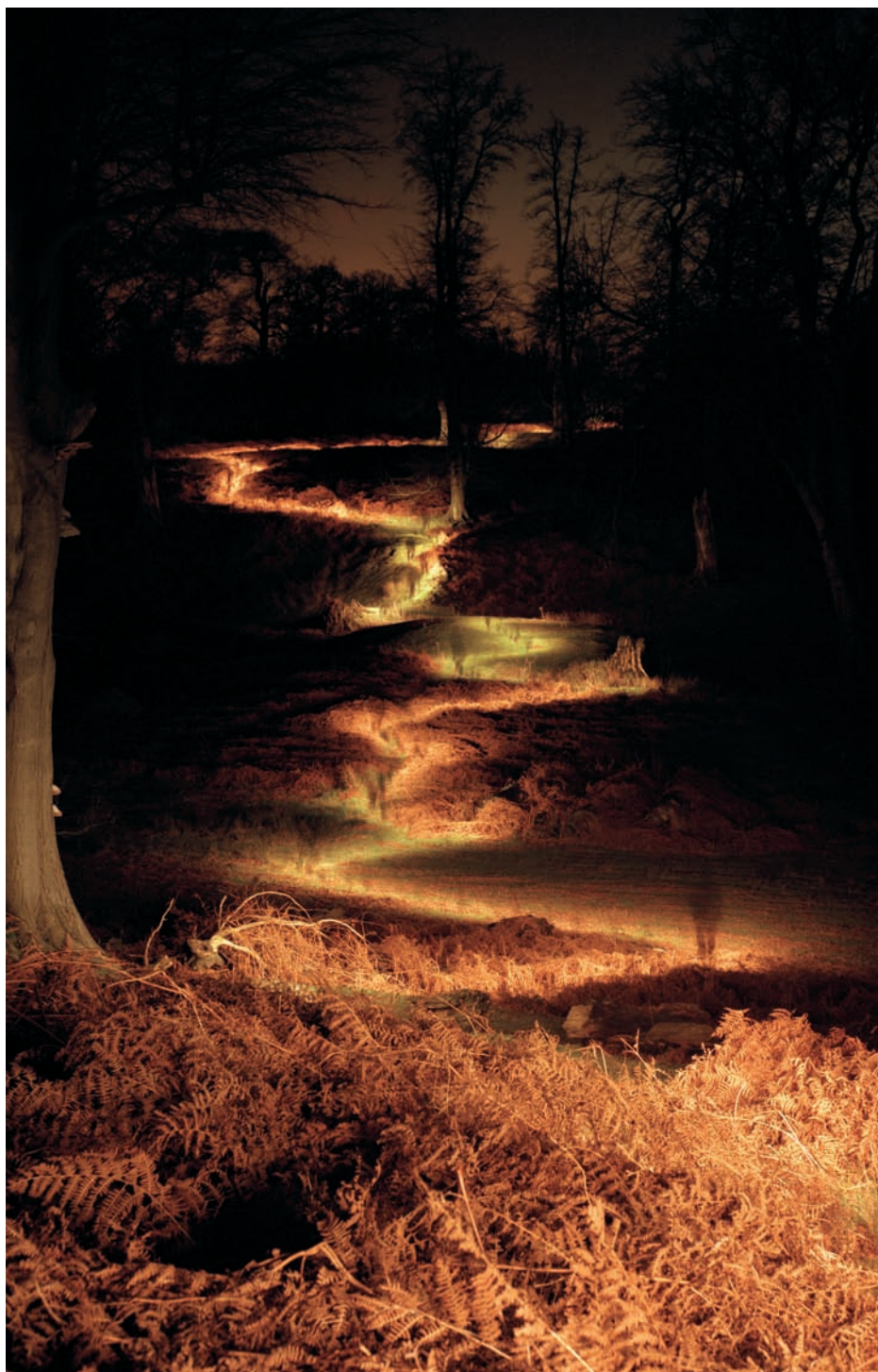
LONDON

TIM KNOWLES, *NIGHTWALK #3*, 2007

WHEN I first laid eyes on Tim Knowles's *Nightwalk #3* at Art Futures 2008, the annual fair organized by the Contemporary Art Society, it transported me out of London and back to an improbable journey of my own. A drizzle fell in a rainforest of Southeast Asia, and I walked with just a torch, projecting my voice into the night. The campers I searched for never replied, and soon my heels were turning to the sounds of an invisible animal thrashing beside the path. Knowles (38), on the other hand, has journeyed fearlessly since completing a fine art degree in sculpture at Bath College in 1992. Unwavering in its exploration of chance, kinetics, nature and process, his work has drawn comparisons to that of both Roman Signer and Jackson Pollock. He is an admirer of both, he says, though their influence is not direct.

More concerned with his own footsteps, *Nightwalk #3* is part of a new 'walks' series begun last year with 'Windwalks', which shows both the artist and the process in the image for the first time. Fellow walkers such as Hamish Fulton, Richard Long and Douglas Huebler spring to mind as conceptual antecedents, but the striking aesthetic of *Nightwalk #3* has a distinct identity of its own. Intermittently tracing Knowles's silhouette, the 30-minute exposure captures the many chapters of one man's voyage, or that of a procession of ghosts, marching through the ochre tones of the aptly named Knole Park in Kent where the image was shot this January. Equipped with a 12-volt generator strapped to his back, three 5-million-candle-strength torches dangling from his sides and a medium-format Zeiss Ikon Nettar using Fuji P800 colour film, he made several attempts to scorch the meandering path through the darkness. The result is the consolidation of an amalgam of ambitions that are rarely satisfied. Knowles's combination of imagination, chance and craft has left in his wake an image as beautiful in concept as it is in reality.

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Tim Knowles, *Nightwalk #3*, 2008. C-print, 60 x 90 cm.
Courtesy of the artist