Words: Scarlett Lili Thomas of LUMINOSA Arts Scene

___

In 'Lux Sublimata' at Tolarno Galleries, Andrew Browne transforms satin into a landscape of illumination, fracture and material ambiguity. Presented as a series of large-scale, photo-based banners, the works occupy an intriguing space between painting, photography and textile. Their imagery is embedded directly into the satin through dye sublimation, a process involving heat, gas and pressure.

Intricate networks of pale, fractured lines spread across expanses of colour. Some resemble dried, cracked earth; others suggest geological formations, cellular structures or the delicate pathways of something growing beneath a surface. These irregular patterns appear to divide and reconnect, as though another landscape is slowly revealing itself. The white lines seem almost to seep through the coloured fields, evoking a world underneath attempting to break into view.

There is a compelling tension between the apparent flatness of the satin and the depth suggested by its imagery. The fabric hangs with an almost weightless delicacy, yet its surfaces evoke pressure, rupture and the gradual processes of erosion. What initially appears abstract begins to suggest something organic, although it never settles into a recognisable landscape.

The titles offer another way into these strange visual environments. 'Gold!' and 'Goth' introduce vivid associations of colour, mood and cultural identity, while 'Fulgêre' - meaning to shine brightly, gleam or flash with lightning - brings the exhibition's fascination with illumination into focus. Light here becomes something held within the image, caught in its fractures and patterns.

Against the gallery's dark, reflective floor, the hanging banners acquire an almost spectral presence, their reflections extending the works into the surrounding space.

In 'Lux Sublimata', Browne makes light tangible while keeping its source elusive. These are landscapes not quite of the natural world, but of its traces - places where beauty and fragmentation coexist, and where the surface never tells the whole story.

05/11/2026