LIZ O'BRIEN
New York



Sasha Sykes b. 1976
Aurelian (Redux), 2025
19th-century butterflies and moths from Lisnavagh House in County Carlow, Ireland.
Cast in resin, and raised on acrylic base.
20.5"H x 22 5/8"Dia
Ref #AurelianRedux

This table emerged from a process of rethinking and representing of an early 19thcentury cabinet of butterflies and moths at Lisnavagh House, who's identities had beendisintegrating with time. Centuries of exposure to the south light had gradually leachedthe colour from the insects' wings, rendering them almost impossible to classify, even tothe most seasoned lepidopterists.

Yet beneath this loss of colour, the delicate forms and intricate structures of the specimens remained remarkably intact. These residual traces have been translated here through resin, preserving and reimagining the insects as both objects of natural history and vessels of memory.

The circular form of the table speaks to the cyclical nature of existence: emergence, transformation, decay and renewal. In this sense, the work becomes a meditation on the passage of time and the tension between preservation and disappearance. What was once a cabinet of scientific classification is reconstituted as a contemporary object — part archive, part memorial, and part evocation of the perpetual cycle of life and death.