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IN THE GALLERIES

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John H. Brown Jr.

When his work was last seen at Cross Mackenzie Gallery, photographer John H. Brown Jr. was showing close-ups of leaves and vines, starkly silhouetted and often divided across multiple panels. Some examples (and expansions) of that strategy are in his current exhibition, “Out of Africa,” but the centerpiece is a grid of individual pictures. The “Serengeti Tree” series depicts individuals, each different but all similarly alone in the Tanzanian veldt.

His intention was to emphasize “the grand sculptural qualities of the foliage,” the local artist writes, but the Serengeti photos are less streamlined than his previous pictures. They’re sepia-toned, as if to imply the subjects’ age, and include grass, hills and the occasional animal... Where the “Vine Series” attempted to organize unruly flora, “Serengeti Tree” seems to acknowledge that nature’s sense of composition can scarcely be bettered.

John H. Brown Jr.: Out of Africa

On view through April 9 at Cross Mackenzie Gallery, 2026 R St. NW; 202-333-7970; crossmackenzie.com.

