

OPEN EYE GALLERY

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7 DECEMBER 2012 – 17 FEBRUARY 2013



MAIN EXHIBITION
A LECTURE UPON THE SHADOW

ARCHIVE EXHIBITION
E. CHAMBRE HARDMAN: LANDSCAPES

Open Eye Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition of new work by six of the most exciting artists from the North West and Shanghai.

Using different approaches, the artists play with light, shadow and form to re-imagine familiar situations, exploring photography's relationship to illusion and the everyday. *A Lecture Upon The Shadow* takes its title from a poem by the English Renaissance poet John Donne, which explores the phases of love. The exhibition is produced in collaboration with ShanghART, Shanghai's leading commercial gallery, where the exhibition premiered July – August 2012.

The six exhibiting artists are: David Jacques (Liverpool); Tabitha Jussa (Liverpool); David Penny (Manchester); Fan Shi San (Shanghai); Man Yi (Shanghai) and Liang Yue (Shanghai).

Man Yi's *Memory of Water* (2006 - 2010) traces details of a landscape surrounding the Yangtze River as it follows its course through the Yangtze region and into the East China

Sea.

David Penny's art objects have undergone a number of deformations and reconstructions, highlighting photography's transformational ability and its relationship to the history of art.

Taken in deteriorating lighting conditions **Liang Yue's** *Numerous Continuation: Summer Autumn Chaos* (2012) captures imaginary scenes caught somewhere between twilight and darkness.

Tabitha Jussa's *Eldon Grove* (2012) documents the site of an abandoned utopian social housing development in North Liverpool, creating an impossible view of the buildings.

Fan Shi San's series *Two of Us* (2009 -) explores the identity formation of people born in China since the introduction of the one child policy.

David Jacques' new series *Corpus Mercatorium* (2012) is inspired by the writings of 16th Century Demonologist Johann Weyer. It brings together photographic portraits from corporate PR web pages and photographs from WW1 archives, collaged together to create a surreal narrative. A short story, written by the artist, accompanies the work.

ARCHIVE EXHIBITION

E. CHAMBRÉ HARDMAN: LANDSCAPES

This exhibition brings together a selection of landscapes by the Irish-born photographer Edward Chambré Hardman (b.1898 d.1988). Best known for his photograph *The Birth of the Ark Royal* (1950), and highly respected as a portrait photographer, Hardman ran successful commercial studios on Liverpool's Bold Street from 1923, and Rodney Street from 1949.

The early 1930s marked a turning point for Hardman. With his wife Margaret, also a photographer, he began to tour Britain developing his passion for picturing the varied British landscape in a style that moved him away from the soft focus of Pictorialism. From the wilderness to the pastoral, Hardman's natural landscapes are often devoid of the industrial motifs embedded in the work of later generations of British landscape photographers such as the factory chimney, pylon, and cooling tower. For Hardman, "town was town and country was country".

In December 1980 Open Eye Gallery's then Director, Peter Hagerty, organised an E. Chambré Hardman retrospective that succeeded in drawing attention to a neglected photographic archive on the verge of being destroyed. Hagerty played a pivotal role in saving this archive, dedicating many years to cataloguing, conserving, and contextualising Hardman's photographic output.

This is the first exhibition to highlight Hardman's little seen landscapes but takes as its starting point the earlier industrial image of Liverpool's *Power Station, Lister Drive* (1929) seen previously at Open Eye thirty-two years ago. This exhibition, curated by Julia

García Hernández, is delivered in partnership with the National Trust, and will tour to The Hardmans' House, Rodney Street, in Spring 2013.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Open Eye Gallery has been one of the UK's leading photography spaces since 1977, and is the only gallery dedicated to photography in the North West of England.

Gallery opening times:

10.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Monday.

FREE ENTRY

www.openeye.org.uk

Funding:

Open Eye Gallery receives regular funding from Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council. The capital project has received generous support from several major funders along with grants from trusts and foundations, corporate support and individual donations. Major funders include Liverpool Vision/ Northwest Development Agency and the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Support has also been received from the Foyle Foundation, Rootstein Hopkins Foundation, Granada Foundation and JSF Pollitzer Charitable Settlement.

Project team Architects: RCKa Main Contractors: Braithwaites Capital Project Partner: Countryside/Neptune Developments

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