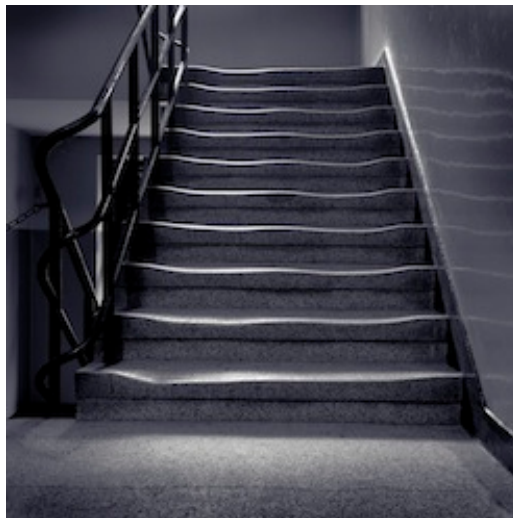


OPEN EYE GALLERY



OPEN EYE GALLERY - 30 March to 10 June 2012

MAIN EXHIBITION

RICHARD MOSSE: INFRA

ARCHIVE EXHIBITION

SIMON NORFOLK: FOR MOST OF IT I HAVE NO WORDS

WALL WORK

**EMILY SPEED: NOTHING IS FINISHED, NOTHING IS PERFECT,
NOTHING LASTS**

Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, is delighted to announce the UK premier of Richard Mosse's *Infra*, alongside a seminal project by photographer Simon Norfolk, from **30 March to 10 June 2012**. The gallery launches a new Wall Work commission by artist Emily Speed on the same date.

Main exhibition, *Infra*, is a striking new body of work by photographer **Richard Mosse** made in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is Mosse's first solo exhibition in the UK.

Mosse documents the landscape of an emerging conflict using a discontinued military surveillance technology - an infrared colour film called Kodak Aerochrome. Originally developed for camouflage detection, this aerial reconnaissance film registers infrared light, which is invisible to the human eye, in vivid hues of lavender, crimson and hot pink.

On his journeys in eastern Congo, Mosse photographed rebel groups constantly switching allegiances, fighting nomadically in a jungle war-zone plagued by ambushes, massacres and systematic sexual violence.

Like the novelist Joseph Conrad a century before him, Mosse attempts to depict a disorientating humanitarian disaster, too opaque for traditional methods of representation.

Running alongside this main exhibition is archive exhibition *For Most Of It I Have No Words* by **Simon Norfolk**. Originally completed in 1998, and exhibited at Open Eye the following year, this project marked a turning point in Norfolk's practice.

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The series investigates what Norfolk regards as genocidal events of the twentieth century, reflecting on the act of forgetting as physical reminders of the atrocities disappear from the landscape and away from our consciousness.

It begins in Rwanda (1994) where partially clad skeletons remain in the churches and schools where massacres have taken place.

Moving back through time, Norfolk draws a thread through a series of historical events: Cambodia's Year Zero in 1975; extermination camps in Auschwitz; mass graves that resulted from man-made famine in the Ukraine; and the fields of Anatolia where Armenians were marched to their deaths in 1915.

The series concludes in Namibia where the sands of the Omaheke Desert have erased the final traces of the Herero people, killed under German colonial rule in 1904.

Open Eye curator, Karen Newman, says: "Mosse and Norfolk's exhibitions reject conventional formats of photo documentary and photojournalism, highlighting the reliance of memory on visual evidence, and questioning photography's ability to represent indescribable conflict."

The exterior wall of the gallery is the site for the second in a series of Wall Works - a new commission by Liverpool-based artist **Emily Speed** titled *Nothing is Finished, Nothing is Perfect, Nothings Lasts*.

Speed makes sculptural works that explore the temporary and transient nature of things. Through reference to architecture and the body, she investigates buildings as physical shelters and as containers for memory, bound with the history of their occupiers.

The installation at Open Eye takes the folded shape of the gallery's façade as a starting point and adds a layer to it, transforming the appearance of the wall into a giant, creased piece of paper.

Karen Newman, curator, continues: "Although Speed is using different materials to those employed by Mosse and Norfolk, what links these artists is an investigation of what lies beneath the surface."

Open Eye Gallery is one of the UK's leading photography galleries and the only venue of its kind in the North West. In November 2011 the gallery relocated to a brand new purpose-built space on the Liverpool Waterfront, at the heart of the city's new cultural quarter.

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Notes to Editors

Open Eye Gallery
19 Mann Island, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool L3 1BP
www.openeye.org.uk

Gallery opening times: 10.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Monday (except Bank Holidays).
FREE ENTRY

Richard Mosse's *Infra* exhibition is presented in collaboration with Belfast Exposed gallery. Richard is showing a new moving-image piece (currently in production) for the first time at Belfast Exposed from 29 June to 10 August 2012. For more information visit www.belfastexposed.org

Image credits, left to right

- *General Février (Infra series)*, 2010 © Richard Mosse. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.
- *Auschwitz: Staircase in a prison block*. From *For Most Of It I Have No Words: Genocide Landscape Memory* © Simon Norfolk, 1998.

Biographies

Richard Mosse

Richard Mosse (born 1980, Ireland) is a recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship 2011, with a generous supplemental stipend from the Leon Levy Foundation. Mosse, currently based in New York, earned an MFA in Photography from Yale School of Art in 2008 and a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, London, in 2005. He currently has a solo exhibition at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, North Carolina, and the Savannah College of Art and Design, Hong Kong. Mosse's group exhibitions include Dublin Contemporary 2011, Tate Modern, London, the Akademie der Künste, Berlin and Kunsthalle Munich, among others. Mosse's work is held in public collections such as the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, the Martin Z. Margulies Collection, Miami, the Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and the Nelson Atkins Museum, Kansas City. In 2012, Mosse will begin a residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin. Aperture Foundation and Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting recently published a monograph of Richard Mosse's *Infra*, with an introduction by Adam Hochschild.

Simon Norfolk

Simon Norfolk is a landscape photographer whose work over the last ten years has been themed around a probing and stretching of the meaning of the word 'battlefield' in all its forms. He has photographed in some of the world's worst war zones and refugee crises, but is equally at home photographing supercomputers used to design military systems or test launches of nuclear missiles. Norfolk won Le Prix Dialogue at Les Rencontres d'Arles in 2005; The Infinity Prize from The International Center of Photography in 2004; the Foreign Press Club of America Award in 2003; and he was winner of the European Publishing Award, 2002. He has produced three monographs of his work including *Afghanistan:chronotopia* (2002); *For Most Of It I Have No Words* (1998) and *Bleed* (2005). His work is held in major collections such as The Museum of Fine Art, Houston and Deutsche Bourse Art Collection, Frankfurt and the British Council Collection. In 2011 he published *Burke + Norfolk*; a re-discovery and rephotography of the photographer John Burke's pictures from Afghanistan in the 1880s, which was shown in a solo exhibition at Tate Modern.

Emily Speed

Emily Speed is based at The Royal Standard in Liverpool. Working in performance, installation, sculpture, drawing and artists' books, she explores the temporary and the transient through reference to architecture and the body. Emily is currently exhibiting as part of Topophobia at the Bluecoat, Liverpool and will make new work for 'Camp Out' at Laumeier Sculpture Park, St Louis in May 2012. Recent exhibitions include: Make Shift, a solo exhibition at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2011); Paper Cooperative, Spacex, Exeter (2011); Dialogos, ASSAB One, Milan (2011); Roaming. Heterotopias, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland (2010); Showreel Projects #5, Milan; Hand, Voice & Vision: Artists' Books from Women's Studio Workshop, Grolier Club, New York (2010). Emily has undertaken various residencies including A Curriculum at A Foundation, Liverpool (2010), Salzamt Atelierhaus Linz, Austria (2009) and an Artist's Book Residency at Women's Studio Workshop, New York State (2007).

Karen Newman, Curator

Karen has been Curator at Open Eye Gallery since October 2010. She curated Open Eye's launch exhibitions with Mitch Epstein, Chris Steele-Perkins and a new commission by artist S Mark Gubb. Prior to Open Eye she was Curator at FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology). With a background in supporting artists' production development and a specialism in lens-based media, she has commissioned major artworks by international artists such as Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Carolee Schneemann and Mark Lewis. Karen curated *Persistence of Vision*, a group show exploring the interplay of vision, memory and media with Danish co-curator Andreas Broegger in 2010 and has contributed to various publications including *100 Video Artists* (EXIT Press), *Apichatpong Weerasethakul* (Austrian Film Museum) and *We are the Real Time Experiment* (FACT).

About Open Eye Gallery

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. In November 2011 Open Eye opened its brand new purpose-built home twice the size of its former incarnation, reinforcing the gallery's position as one of the most significant exhibitors and collectors of photography in the UK.

Located in a development on Liverpool's Waterfront, the new gallery is a stone's throw from Tate Liverpool and the Albert Dock, in the heart of the city's rich cultural quarter.

Funding

Open Eye Gallery receives regular funding from Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council. The new gallery 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.

Further press information

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REVENUE FUNDERS



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