

OPEN EYE GALLERY

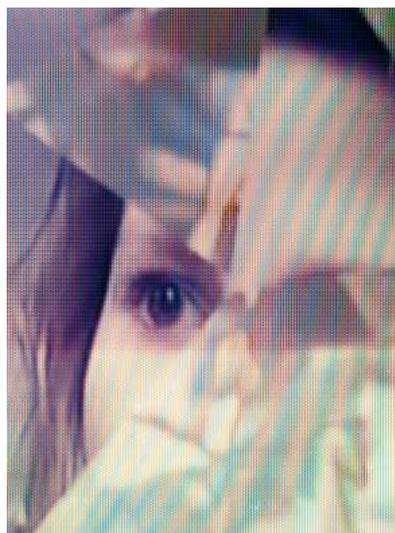
Open Eye Gallery
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Company Limited by Guarantee No.1204519 &
Registered Charity No.1056743



They Were My Landscape © Phoebe Kiely, 2015/16
I Used To Think You Were Normal © Sam Hutchinson, 2015/16
The Unforgetting © Peter Watkins 2015

15 APRIL – 5 JUNE 2016

OPEN 2: PIECES OF YOU

Press View: Thursday 14 April, 12-4pm

Private View: Thursday 14 April, 6-8pm

The second exhibition in the *Open* series presents six new and early career artists predominantly from the North whose work came to us through submissions and expressions of interest. *Open* provides a platform for displaying new work and a forum for discussion thanks to a rich programme of public events unfolding throughout the duration of the exhibition.

In *Pieces of You*, each of the six artists share a curiosity in exploring how we gather and make meaning of our experiences. When we choose to photograph a moment, perhaps we imagine looking at it again in the future, showing it to a friend, or sharing it online – but we make it part of our story. From a dog-walk to a christening, moments in a coffee shop or reflecting on our past, how do we use images to make sense of ourselves and express ourselves? What do your photos say about you?

With the support of the Brian Mercer Charitable Trust, we are proud to present a series of three annual *Open* exhibitions to show work received through our on-going call for Exhibition Submissions. Established at the gallery in 2013, the submission process enables practitioners at all stages of their career, who use photography as their medium, to share their latest ideas and projects with us.

Photography offers a way to tell a story, to fix a moment for review, from one perspective or one time – but how ‘true’ is that picture of a sculpture, a friend’s face at sunset, your best selfie?

Peter Watkins’ *The Unforgetting* examines the artist’s German family history through objects, places, photographs, and narrative structures circulated within his family. **Phoebe Kiely’s** *They Were My Landscape* presents scenes from her life, collected as an act of curiosity and compulsion. Photographer **Stephen Iles** and sculptor **Nicola Dale** collaborate to explore the possibilities of photography to communicate an understanding of a subject. **Sam Hutchinson’s** project *I Used To Think You Were Normal* reflects on the simulated worlds of game shows and the motivations of their contestants. Designer and artist **Thom Isom** presents a new way of experiencing the exhibition through a limited edition publication.

The exhibition offers new ways of experiencing and thinking about photography – making structures within the gallery to enter the artist’s narrative space, toying with standard ideas of display. We will be building a working black and white darkroom inside the gallery to elevate the process of capturing and sharing photography to somewhere between residency and exhibition, and working with a sculptor/photographer collaboration to explore the boundaries of the knowledge available in the photographic image.

ABOUT OPEN EYE GALLERY:

We believe photography is for everyone and can be meaningful, informing our present and inspiring positive futures. Open Eye Gallery works with people to explore photography’s unique ability to connect, to tell stories, to inquire, to reflect on humanity’s past and present, and to celebrate its diversity and creativity.

Founded in 1977 Open Eye Gallery is an independent not-for-profit photography gallery based in Liverpool. One of the UK’s leading photography spaces, Open Eye Gallery is the only gallery dedicated to photography and related media in the North West of England. Open Eye Gallery has consistently championed photography as an art form that is relevant to everyone. It promotes the practice, enjoyment and understanding of photography by creating challenging and entertaining opportunities to experience and appreciate distinctive, innovative photographs.

In November 2011 Open Eye Gallery re-launched in a brand new purpose-built home in one of the city’s most prestigious and prominent new developments on the Liverpool Waterfront. The gallery’s position at the heart of the regenerated Waterfront – next to the Museum of Liverpool and a stone’s throw from Tate Liverpool and Albert Dock – cements its commitment to the city and its vibrant cultural life.

As well as presenting a programme of international, high-quality exhibitions Open Eye Gallery houses a permanent Archive containing photographs dating from the 1930s to the present day. The gallery also commissions Wall Works – large-scale graphic art installations for the external facade of the gallery.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

If you need to contact us to ask a question, arrange interviews or to request high-resolution image files, please email Charlotte Anne Down, Marketing & Communications Officer
charlotte@openeye.org.uk / +44 (0) 151 242 1131

Gallery opening hours:

10.30am – 5.30pm, Tuesday to Sunday during exhibitions.

Closed on Mondays (except bank holidays) and during exhibition changeovers.

Ends –



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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The Brian Mercer Charitable Trust