

Press Release.

6 JANUARY – 19 MARCH 2017

## NORTH: IDENTITY, PHOTOGRAPHY, FASHION

**Press View:** Thursday 5 January 2017, 10am-6pm

**Launch Night:** Thursday 5 January 2017, 6pm-9pm

Open Eye Gallery is delighted to launch its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday year with a brand new exhibition exploring the influence of the North of England on fashion and visual culture.



Raf Simons, Autumn/Winter 2003. Catwalking.com

Co-curated by Lou Stoppard and Adam Murray, **North** explores the way the region is depicted, constructed and celebrated in select photographs, artworks and fashion collections. The show brings together collective visions of the North, unpicking the tropes and themes that appear regularly in design and media and takes into account the rich cultural history of the region.

The exhibition features work from some of fashion's most notable image-makers. Early photography by Jamie Hawkesworth and Alasdair McLellan, dating back to the first years of their careers, is shown alongside historic prints from Glen Luchford and Nick Knight. Original prints from Luchford's first ever shoot, a session with The Stone Roses for The Face in 1989, will be on display. Additionally, work by contemporary artists such as Turner Prize winners Mark Leckey and Jeremy Deller will be exhibited.

Fashion garments include a Raf Simons parka from the renowned A/W 2003 Control collection, which featured graphics from Peter Saville's archive and made headlines this year for its current value of \$20,000. Work by respected but now defunct former label New Power Studio, one of the original recipients of Fashion East's MAN award, will be displayed alongside new work by rising talents such as Christopher Shannon and John Skelton. Iconic archive shoes by adidas, a staple of Northern style, will also be on show.

New collaborative work, such as a project by Hacienda designer Ben Kelly and American fashion designer Virgil Abloh, who is a long term fan of the sounds and graphics of 1980s Northern England, will also be on display.

Presented are candid interviews produced by SHOWstudio, talking with talents born and bred in the North, exploring the influence of the region on visual style. Subjects include Simon Foxton, Stephen Jones, Claire Barrow and Christopher Shannon.

Featured artists are Alasdair McLellan, Glen Luchford, Corinne Day, David Sims, Jamie Hawkesworth, Jason Evans, Alice Hawkins, Mark Leckey, Jeremy Deller, Raf Simons, Paul Smith, Virgil Abloh, New Power Studio, adidas, Elaine Constantine, Christopher Shannon, Maxwell Sterling, Simon Foxton, Ben Kelly, Stephen Jones, Gareth Pugh, Nick Knight, Peter Saville, John Bulmer, Peter Mitchell, Nik Hartley, Claire Barrow, Humphrey Spender, Thom Murphy, Ewen Spencer, Brett Dee, Humphrey Jennings, Dave Turner, Rob Williams, David Ellison, Scott King, Shirley Baker, Greg Leach, John Davies, John Stoddart, Martin Roberts, Michael Robinson, Michelle Sank, Paul O'Donnell, Stephen McCoy, Tom Wood, John Skelton.

The exhibition is kindly supported by adidas.

#North

## EDITOR'S NOTES:

**Lou Stoppard** is a writer, broadcaster and curator. She is editor-at-large of SHOWstudio.com, Nick Knight's fashion platform. She is contributing editor at British *GQ* and writes for titles including *AnOther*, *Vogue* and *The Financial Times*. Her exhibitions have included *Mad About The Boy*, an exploration of fashion's obsession with the teenage male, and *The Extraordinary Process*, a collaboration with Zaha Hadid Design, which focused on future fashion. Her debut book, focusing on collaboration within fashion, will be published by Rizzoli in 2017.

**Adam Murray** is an academic based in Manchester and co-founder of photography collective Preston is my Paris. His practice and research is rooted in photography, fashion and visual culture, with particular emphasis on the regional identity of Northern England.

## 40 YEARS OF OPEN EYE GALLERY: 1977-2017

Join us for an exciting year ahead as we launch our 40th birthday celebrations. Over this period, Open Eye Gallery has exhibited some of the worlds most inspiring and insightful photographers. We have championed the agency of photography as art, as social and historical document, and as integral to cultural impact of music, fashion, architecture and many other disciplines.

In 2017, Open Eye Gallery will be celebrating our deep connection to place. Working in partnership, we explore the visual identity of the North, the City as a site for global exchange, the history and future of counter culture and the people & communities of our City Region.

#OEG40

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.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you need to contact us to ask a question, arrange interviews or request high-res image files, please email:  
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Gallery opening hours:  
10:30am-5:30pm, Tuesday-Sunday  
\*Closed on Monday, except Bank Holidays

Website: [www.openeye.org.uk](http://www.openeye.org.uk)  
Twitter: [@OpenEyeGallery](https://twitter.com/OpenEyeGallery)  
Facebook: [/OpenEyeGallery](https://www.facebook.com/OpenEyeGallery)  
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