

OPEN EYE GALLERY

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2 MARCH – 5 MAY 2013



MAIN EXHIBITION
MISHKA HENNER: PRECIOUS COMMODITIES

ARCHIVE EXHIBITION
EDITH TUDOR-HART: QUIET RADICALISM

Open Eye is delighted to announce two major new exhibitions by photographer provocateurs **Mishka Henner** and **Edith Tudor-Hart**.

Born in Brussels in 1976, Manchester-based **Mishka Henner's** images derive from a multitude of sources – the Internet, satellite imagery and television, as well as the precious canon of photography. Henner's recent works have stirred riotous debate within the photography community, calling to question traditional modes of production and authorship in today's media saturated world.

Recently shortlisted as one of the four photographers for the prestigious Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2013, Henner's exhibition in the main galleries at Open Eye presents brand new work never exhibited before from his series *The Fields* and *Feedlots* (both 2012-2013). For these works Henner has used Google Earth to capture meticulously detailed aerial photographs of oilfields in the Texas landscape, and the immense business of cattle farming, seamlessly compositing multiple images together to create ultra-high definition images which are printed large format.

The exhibition also presents Henner's controversial new work *Less Américains*, 2012, in which Henner has erased the faces from the portraits of Robert Frank's highly influential book *Les Américains* from 1958 (considered by many to be a 'masterpiece' of American photography). *Less Américains* is shown alongside a number of other works which investigate the photo book as a

form, such as *Photography Is* (2010) which takes a live feed from Twitter every time the words “photography is” are used.

Austrian born **Edith Tudor-Hart** (1908 – 1973) was a photographer, communist-sympathiser and spy for the Soviet Union, who used photography as a tool to communicate her political ideas. She studied photography at the Bauhaus and fled Vienna in 1933 to escape persecution for Communist activities and her Jewish background.

Tudor-Hart’s exhibition will take place in the Archive Gallery alongside Mishka Henner’s exhibition, and is culled from Open Eye’s extraordinary holding of Tudor-Hart’s images in its permanent Archive. The exhibition focuses on several key periods in Tudor-Hart’s practice: Aerial and street-view scenes document political upheaval in Vienna prior to Tudor-Hart’s departure for England; the industrial landscapes and working life of Rhondda Valley’s coal mining community in South Wales; and the care and education of disabled children at the previous Fountain Hospital in London. The exhibition encapsulates the social and political concerns at the centre of Tudor-Hart’s practice.

Karen Newman: “*We’re thrilled to present Mishka Henner’s first major exhibition which highlights the extraordinary breadth of this exciting photographer’s work at a pivotal moment in his career. Similarly provocative, though generations apart, Edith Tudor-Hart’s exhibition plays tribute to an incredible and almost forgotten photographer whose work warrants serious reflection.*”

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. 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.

Gallery opening times: 10.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Mondays except bank holidays.

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

The Photographers’ Gallery & The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2013

The Photographers’ Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK’s first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the country to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller (fashion), Robert Capa (photojournalism), Sebastião Salgado (documentary) and Andreas Gursky (contemporary art). The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009 the Gallery moved to 16 – 18 Ramillies Street, the first stage in its plan to create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen month long redevelopment project the Gallery reopened to the public on Saturday, 19 May 2012. The success of The Photographers’ Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing generations of visitors to important names in photography and championing photography’s place at the heart of visual culture. The Gallery’s Chair of the Board of Trustees is Sir Brian Pomeroy, CBE. www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Curator

Karen Newman has been Curator at Open Eye Gallery since October 2010. She devised Open Eye's new artistic programme prior to the gallery re-launching in a brand new purpose-built space on Liverpool's Waterfront in November 2011, and has curated exhibitions with Mitch Epstein, Chris Steele-Perkins, Richard Mosse, Simon Norfolk and Liverpool Biennial 2012 with Kohei Yoshiyuki and Mark Morrisroe. Prior to Open Eye, Karen was Curator at FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology). Karen co-curated *Persistence of Vision*, a group show exploring the interplay of vision, memory and media with Danish curator Andreas Broegger in 2010 which toured to Nikolaj Centre for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen.

Image credits:

Left: © Mishka Henner

Right: © Wolf Suschitzky

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