



L-R: © Matthew Finn, *Untitled*, originally commissioned for Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2015 from the series *Mother* (1987- present) / © Joanna Piotrowska, *Untitled*, originally commissioned for Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2015 / © Tereza Zelenkova, *Stairs*, originally commissioned for Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2015

28 OCTOBER – 18 DECEMBER 2016

## JERWOOD/PHOTOWORKS AWARDS 2015

MATTHEW FINN / JOANNA PIOTROWSKA / TEREZA ZELENKOVA

Press View: Thursday 27 October, 10am–6pm  
Launch Night: Thursday 27 October, 6pm–8pm

Open Eye Gallery is delighted to present a group exhibition of new photography enabled by the first national Jerwood/Photoworks Awards.

Three artists were selected from a call for applications to UK-based photography practitioners within ten years of establishing their practice. Each has received an award of £5,000 to support the making of new work for this exhibition, with a significant production fund and advice from a pool of thirteen Mentors including Alec Soth, Gillian Wearing, Broomberg & Chanarin and Michael Mack as well as curatorial advice from both of the award giving organisations.

**Matthew Finn** has been photographing his mother in a series of collaborative portraits since 1987. *Mother* draws us into the fascinating dynamic of mother and son offering an intense and honest view of this most natural and universal of bonds. His Jerwood/Photoworks Award has enabled Matthew to revisit this series at an emotional time that has seen his mother, Jean, move from her family home into an assisted living residence. Jean's mental health has changed her role in the portraits from active participant to one of an observed subject; widening the focus of his images towards objects and metaphor.

**Joanna Piotrowska's** work explores anxiety and the effects of global and political events on the individual. Counteracting the passive role encouraged of adolescent girls, Joanna has enlisted young women to recreate poses from self-defence manuals. She offers the viewer a reclamation of the private body from the public sphere, and re-contextualising these poses within a domestic setting, feeds our fascination with the uncanny or the unheimlich.

**Tereza Zelenkova** has travelled to her native Czech Republic to explore themes of history, local legend and folklore. Tereza's Jerwood/Photoworks Award enabled her to visit numerous locations, but the resulting images seem themselves out of place and time. Her eerily beautiful, black and white photographs of woodlands, stone structures and relics form their own dream-like, subconscious world, where stories fuel the viewer's interpretation.

Thomas Dukes, Curator at Open Eye Gallery said:

*Open Eye Gallery looks to champion the work of photographers through all stages of their career, and working with the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards is an opportunity to support the emerging stage of the career path as part of a nationwide network of photographic institutions. Each photographer seemingly positions their project at a different scale of relationship to the individual, from a nebulous global sense of culture to the intensely personal family ties. As well as the consistently incredible level of work, developing this exhibition has been a pleasure, with the three projects ideally suited to the gallery architecture.*

In a joint statement Celia Davies, Director of Photoworks and Shonagh Manson, Director of Jerwood Charitable Foundation said:

*The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are all about recognising future potential, supporting talented artists and their next steps. Working with our Awardees throughout the creative production process and seeing the ideas behind their projects develop into such strong bodies of work that may not otherwise have been made, has been hugely rewarding. We're looking forward to seeing where our Awardees' career paths lead and to selecting from our next call for entries – open now and closing 2 November 2016.*

## EDITOR'S NOTES:

**Matthew Finn** (b1971 United Kingdom) received his first degree from the University of Derby in 1994 and an MA in Photography from Westminster University in 2007. Matthew uses the people and events directly surrounding his life as visual references for projects that sometimes take years to realise.

[mattfinn.com](http://mattfinn.com)

**Joanna Piotrowska** (b1985 Poland) received an MA in Photography from the RCA in 2013. In 2014 Joanna was awarded the MACK First Book Award for FROWST and in 2013 exhibited for Bloomberg New Contemporaries and Family Politics at Jerwood Space, London. FROWST was shown at Media Space, London in March 2015

[joannapiotrowska.com](http://joannapiotrowska.com)

**Tereza Zelenkova** (b1985 Czech Republic) received an MA in Photography from the RCA in 2012, the same year in which she received the 1000 Words Magazine Award, Metro Imaging Award and was shortlisted for Saatchi New Sensations. Tereza has several self-published books as well as *Supreme Vice* published by Mörel Books. Her self-published book, *Index of Time* (2012), made in collaboration with Peter Watkins, was selected as one of the best books of 2012 by Photo-Eye and latest publication, *The Absence of Myth*, was selected as one of the best black and white photobooks of 2013 by *The Telegraph*

[terezazelenkova.com](http://terezazelenkova.com)

## JERWOOD/PHOTOWORKS AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES:

Open: 25 July - 2 November 2016      Submission fee: £10

The second national **Jerwood/Photoworks Awards** seek outstanding proposals from UK-based artists and photographers using new approaches to photography in their practice.

Three Awards of £5,000 will be made to support the making of new work, alongside a mentoring programme, access to a significant additional production fund of up to £5,000 per artist, a group exhibition in London as part of the Jerwood Visual Arts programme at Jerwood Space (from January 2018) with a subsequent UK exhibition tour. Spectrum Photographic are the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards Official Print Partner.

Presented every two years, the Awards are open to all practitioners using photography and applicants must be resident in the UK. There is no age limitation and no requirement for art school or university education. Applicants will be expected to be within ten years of establishing their practice or graduating. Moving image work is not eligible for the Awards.

The selection panel will include: **Celia Davies**, Director, Photoworks; **Sarah Williams**, Head of Programme, Jerwood Visual Arts; **Anna Fox**, photographer; **Ori Gersht**, photographer; **Mark Durden**, writer and photographer.

The three selected artists will be announced in January 2017.

Both the Photoworks and Jerwood Visual Arts teams will offer curatorial and logistical support to the selected artists through 2017, plus a high-profile pool of mentors will support the selected artists for twelve months after selection. Confirmed Mentors in addition to the selection panel include: **Rut Blees**

**Luxemburg** – photographer, **Mitch Epstein** – photographer, **Fariba Farshad** – curator, **Francis Hodgson** – writer/art adviser, **Michael Mack** – publisher, **Maureen Paley** – gallerist and **Mark Power** – photographer.

Information and details of how to apply can be found at [photoworks.org.uk](http://photoworks.org.uk).

## **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.

Open Eye Gallery  
19 Mann Island  
Liverpool Waterfront  
L3 1BP

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)  
Instagram: [@openeyegallery](https://www.instagram.com/openeyegallery)

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## **ABOUT THE JERWOOD/PHOTOWORKS AWARDS:**

**The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards** are a collaboration between Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Photoworks, supported by Arts Council England, launched in 2014. They are presented as part of Jerwood Visual Arts, in London and on tour nationally. The first Jerwood/Photoworks Awards tour venues being: Jerwood Space – London, Impressions Gallery – Bradford, Belfast Exposed – Belfast and Open Eye Gallery – Liverpool. The Awards will be presented every two years. The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2015 Mentors were Elinor Carucci, Elizabeth Edwards, Aaron Schuman, Gillian Wearing, Simon Roberts, Rodrigo Orrantia, Lucy Moore, Rachel Segal Hamilton, Michael Mack, Alec Soth, Francis Hodgson, Broomberg & Chanarin. The Selection Panel was Celia Davies – Director Photoworks, Shonagh Manson – Director, Jerwood Charitable Foundation, Broomberg & Chanarin – artists and Lucy Moore – Director, Claire de Rouen Books.

**Photoworks** is an organisation dedicated to enabling participation in photography, the most democratic medium of contemporary visual culture. Photoworks' programme includes commissions, publishing and participation. In collaboration with local, national and international partners, Photoworks connects outstanding artists with audiences and champions talent and ambition. Photoworks produces **Brighton Photo Biennial**, the UK's leading curated photography festival, promoting new thinking around photography through a commissioned programme of events and exhibitions. Photoworks is supported by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation.

[photoworks.org.uk](http://photoworks.org.uk) / [@photoworks\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/photoworks_uk)

**Jerwood Visual Arts** is a contemporary gallery programme of exhibitions, awards and events at Jerwood Space, London and on tour nationally. Jerwood Visual Arts supports and showcases the work of talented emerging artists, and aims to make connections and provoke conversations within and across visual arts disciplines. It is a major initiative of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

[Jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://Jerwoodvisualarts.org) / @JerwoodJVA

**Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts.

[jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you need to contact us to ask a question, arrange interviews or to request high-resolutions image files, please email Charlotte Anne Down, Marketing & Communications Officer

[charlotte@openeye.org.uk](mailto:charlotte@openeye.org.uk) / +44 (0) 151 242 1131

Ends –



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**JERWOOD CHARITABLE  
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