

OPEN EYE GALLERY



G20 Double Takes, 2014 © Billy Macrae

OPEN 1

Exhibition Period: 16 May-23 August 2015

Press View: 15 May 2015, 12-3pm

Preview Night: 15 May 2015, 4-10pm

Open Eye Gallery, with the support of the **Brian Mercer Charitable Trust**, is proud to present a series of three annual exhibitions to show the most compelling 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. *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.

For the first exhibition in the series, titled *Open 1*, Open Eye Gallery's curatorial team have selected six artists whose work is thematically grouped around ideas of **social portraiture**. The show brings together photography that narrates individual stories and yet addresses issues of collective relevance and general public interest. Each series on display has a personal dimension (often more introvert, suffered and lyrical) and a public-facing one (socially and politically engaged and more militant). Such tension is differently resolved in the work of each selected artist/photographer.

G20 Double Takes by **Billy Macrae**, for instance, revisits locations of protest during the last G20 meeting in London by adopting the popular strategy re-photography', often used for displaying romantic ideas of the past against cruder and less elegiac visions of the present. **Deborah Kelly**'s series, *The Miracles*, is a visually sumptuous and layered project on Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) conceived as Renaissance religious portraiture. **Helen Marshall**'s *Project Tobong* looks to preserve and reinvigorate storytelling and ritualised performance in the context of traditional street theatre. *Desk Job* by **Louis Quail** is a humorous, insightful series capturing the struggle of personal expression versus global machinations and homogenisation. *Juvenile in Justice* is a forceful, compassionate project by **Richard Ross** focusing on the imprisonment of youth in 31 US states and over 200 correctional facilities. **Sonal Kantaria**'s *Traces* poetically combines portraiture and still life photography to evoke the experiences of many individuals of Indian heritage who have emigrated to and settled in Australia.

The preview night of the exhibition on 15 May coincides with the launch of **LOOK/15 (Liverpool International Photography Festival)** and **Light Night Liverpool 2015**.

EDITORS NOTES

THE BRIAN MERCER CHARITABLE TRUST:

The Brian Mercer Charitable Trust was established in 1999 according to the wishes of Dr Brian Mercer OBE, F.Eng, FRS (1927-1998).

The Trust awards grants to encourage and support the development of promising young artists (working broadly in the field of visual arts), especially within the North West of the UK. The Brian Mercer Charitable Trust is a registered charity, Charity Commission Number 1076925.

LOOK/15 LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL:

15 May-31 May 2015 / lookphotofestival.com

LOOK/15 is a biennial photography festival that takes place in Liverpool. The festival draws from pools of emerging, mid-career and established artists and practitioners; from our doorstep and from far further afield. LOOK/15 will showcase work in a new light, deliver new commissions and display work not previously seen in the city, or sometimes, anywhere else before.

Open Eye Gallery is proud to be a partner for this years festival with the launch of the *Open* exhibition series. **Open Eye Gallery is also the LOOK/15 hub during the opening weekend**, offering a source of information and discovery for exploring the citywide festival.

LIGHT NIGHT LIVERPOOL 2015:

15 May 2015 / 4-10pm / lightnightliverpool.co.uk

Light Night is a showcase of our region's cultural offer, a celebration and a reminder that we're here all year round with the most creative, vibrant and surprising experiences. We're pleased to host the preview night of *Open 1* as part of this years spectacular. We will also be providing refreshment at a paid bar in the stunning glass atrium, a perfect place to recharge, start or end your Light Night 2015 with accompanying music.

CONTACT US:

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

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GALLERY OPENING HOURS:

10.30am - 5.30pm

Tuesday to Sunday during exhibitions.

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

ABOUT OPEN EYE GALLERY:

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 is the only gallery dedicated to photography and related media in the North West of England. Open Eye 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.

As well as presenting a programme of international, high-quality exhibitions Open Eye houses a permanent Archive containing photographs dating from the 1930s to the present day.

In November 2011 Open Eye 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 opens on to a large covered public square and is split over two floors. Open Eye Gallery hosts an international programme of cutting edge exhibitions showcased all year round, including periodic exhibitions reflecting on the gallery's Archive. Open Eye also commissions Wall Works - large-scale graphic art installations for the external facade of the gallery. 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.

Ends -

The Brian Mercer Charitable Trust



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