

OPEN EYE GALLERY

EXHIBITION GUIDE

OPEN EYE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY AND
A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION.

TO HELP KEEP OUR EXHIBITIONS AND
EVENTS FREE, PLEASE DONATE.

28 OCTOBER - 18 DECEMBER 2016

JERWOOD/PHOTOWORKS AWARDS 2015

Open Eye Gallery is delighted to host this prestigious award for artists using photography as a core part of their work. Supported by a group of mentors, the first award winners, Joanna Piotrowska, Tereza Zelenkova & Matthew Finn were given £5,000 to contribute towards creating new work.

Joanna Piotrowska's work explores how the social environment affects an individual's identity. This series of portraits presents adolescent girls recreating poses from self-defence manuals. The photographs present the body as a sculptural, self-contained form that is physically entangled with something invisible to the viewer. The subject remains anonymous or looks away from the camera but possesses a sense of

control and courage. Set within in a domestic environment the body stands in opposition to its context and the passive gender stereotype associated with the subject.

I have been working on different projects for several years with a very strong drive to construct images... The girls, who mostly appear on the images alone, are seen in position, which points to something that is beyond the crop. The body is strongly engaged in some sort of interaction which we cannot fully understand, yet the discomfort of the position suggests this interaction is overpowering the subject.

Tereza Zelenkova has travelled to her native Czech Republic to explore history, local legend and folklore. The eerily beautiful, black and white photographs of woodlands, stone structures and relics are described as dream-like, a coming together of subjective and subconscious associations. Whether by chance or intention, her personal relationship to the place also informs and inspires the images. Personal narrative and cultural myth are implied through the places, scenes and artefacts she photographs but the stories remain untold.

I hope to create a portrayal of my home country that reflects its rich history, which I believe is imbued with elements of darkness and

melancholy, occasionally seeping to the surface through dark fairytales, forgotten biographies, local histories and superstitions. There are many places and stories, which I think deserve to be documented, preserving something from their individual genius loci through photographs that not only describe and translate, but also enhance the poetics of a place.

Matthew Finn has been photographing his mother since 1987. He describes the work as an on-going collaboration. His mother actively participates in some of the portraits but at other times seems more of an observed subject, oblivious to the camera. Sometimes the images shift towards using objects as metaphor and the photographer himself occasionally appears in the image in a reflection. The psyche and perceptions of both subject and photographer are at play here, their intimate relationship key to the work.

I am drawn to projects that have direct reference to my life and the people in it. I am interested in people and events that surround me, these become my visual references for projects that may take years to realise. I am drawn to people both as individuals and as types to explore and get to know through picture making. My projects are collaborations between photographer & subject set within a world that the subject inhabits.

EVENTS

The following events have been facilitated by Open Eye Gallery's first Writer-in-Residence, Pauline Rowe.

GHOSTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Monday 31 October / 6pm-8pm / Free / Booking Required

POETRY READING: JOHN REDMOND

Wednesday 9 November / 6pm-8pm / Free / Booking Required

OPEN WRITING WORKSHOP

Monday 14 November / 6pm-8pm / Free / Booking Required

POET VONA GROARKE IN CONVERSATION WITH LAUREN ELKIN

Wednesday 30 November / 6pm-8pm / Free / Booking Required

IDEAS LAB ON WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Wednesday 14 December / 6pm-8pm / Free / Booking Required

#JPA15

@OpenEyeGallery

www.openeye.org.uk

info@openeye.org.uk

+44 (0)151 236 6768

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