

## WORK, REST AND PLAY: BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE 1960S TO TODAY 9 MAY- 12 JULY 2015

26 March 2015

The Photographers' Gallery, London in collaboration with The Pin Projects, Beijing OCT-LOFT, Shenzhen and with support from the British Council present *Work, Rest and Play: British Photography from the 1960s to Today*. Featured as part of the 2015 UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange, this will be the first touring exhibition in China solely devoted to British photography.

This exhibition presents a survey of over fifty years of British photography through the lens of documentary practices. Featuring work by some of the most significant photographers and artists of the time, it reflects photography's growing cultural position both within the UK and on the international stage.

*Work, Rest and Play* features over 450 images by thirty-seven acclaimed photographers and artists working across a wide range of genres and disciplines, including photojournalism, portraiture, fashion and fine art.

Arranged chronologically the exhibition explores British society through changing national characteristics, attitudes and activities over the last five decades. Multiculturalism, consumerism, political protest, post-industrialisation, national traditions, the class system and everyday life all emerge under the broader themes of Work, Rest and Play.

Working life finds expression and contrast through Philip Jones Griffiths' photographs of Welsh miners in the 50s Anna Fox's study of London office life in the 80s and Toby Glanville's portraits of workers in rural Britain in the late 90s; Rest is depicted through landscapes and portraits of the British seaside from photographers including John Hinde, Fay Godwin and Simon Roberts; while Play features humour and the rise of popular culture realised in Martin Parr's colourful chronicles as well as Derek Ridgers explorations of subcultures and Terence Donovan's definitive images of British fashion.

Additional works included in this exhibition are by Shirley Baker, James Barnor, Cecil Beaton, Jane Bown, Vanley Burke, Jason Evans, Julian Germain, Stephen Gill, Dryden Goodwin, Tom Hunter, Harry Jacobs, Tony Ray Jones, Karen Knorr, Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen, Melanie Manchot, Linda McCartney, Spencer Murphy, Mark Neville, Nigel Shafran, Paul Seawright, David Spero, Clare Strand, Jon Tonks, Lorenzo Vitturi, Tim Walker, Patrick Ward, Tom Wood and Catherine Yass.

Also on display is *The World in London*, a major public art project initiated by The Photographers' Gallery in 2012 to coincide with the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. The project presents 204 photographic portraits, from both established and emerging talents, of 204 Londoners, each originating from one of the nations competing at the Games. It is a celebration of photographic portraiture as an artistic form of expression as well as the city's rich cultural diversity.

*Work, Rest and Play: British Photography from the 1960s to Today* will be the inaugural exhibition in the new C2 Space, Shenzhen OCT-LOFT, China. The exhibition will continue to tour to Beijing and Shanghai at dates to be announced.

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Brett Rogers OBE, Director, The Photographers' Gallery said: *We are enormously grateful to The Pin Projects and the British Council for all their assistance in making this project possible. As the primary venue for photography in the UK we hope to provide Chinese viewers with an introduction to some of the key themes and visual strategies employed by British photographers during this period of enormous social change.*

Liu Gang, Executive Director, The Pin Projects said: *Photography can best be understood in one of four ways – the photographic object, the photobook, the moving image and the exhibition space. Each offers a unique examination of the medium and its ability to convey a narrative and each represented within the scope of this ambitious exhibition, looking at British history and society over the last fifty years. We are honoured to be working with The Photographers' Gallery on bringing this exhibition to Chinese audiences together with OCT-LOFT and with the generous support of the British Council, both of whose contribution will ensure the success of this splendid show in China.*

Carma Elliot, Director, British Council China said: *We want the 2015 UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange to offer fresh insight into UK creativity and celebrate the breadth of viewpoints and experience. This exhibition does exactly that, introducing the diversity and dynamism of photographic practice from the UK within a new creative context. We're delighted to be working with The Photographers' Gallery, in this important year for the UK-Sino relationship.*

*Work, Rest and Play: British Photography from the 1960s to Today* is supported by Metro Imaging, UK.

## **Notes for Editors**

### **A full list of works and artist biographies is available on request**

#### **The Photographers' Gallery**

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 UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastião Salgado and Andreas Gursky. 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 in Soho, the first stage in its plan to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century home for photography. Following an eighteen month long redevelopment project, it reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture.

[www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

#### **The Pin Projects**

The Pin Projects is a cultural promotion and management agency with a focus on global cultural communications in the fields of contemporary art, design, and architecture. The Pin Projects works closely with cultural partners through every step: funding management, project coordination, event productions, as well as final promotion. The Pin Projects' aim is to launch International cultural activities, taking on a unique approach and reaching a worldwide audience.

#### **2015 UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange**

2015 sees the first ever UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange – showcasing the very best of UK culture in China and Chinese culture in the UK. A unique opportunity to further deepen and strengthen the UK's existing relationship with China across the arts and creative industries, the 2015 UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange will build on our long and shared rich cultural histories, and seek to inspire what this creative partnership means in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Year comprises two seasons of culture – a UK season in China in the first half of 2015 and a China season in the UK in the second half of 2015.

The theme for the UK season in China is 'the Next Generation', with a contemporary, adventurous, multi-disciplinary and innovative programme of around thirty projects across China. Through these projects, and supporting dialogues and visits between professionals, the Year showcases the diversity and excitement of the UK's creative, cultural sector and of our many fine artists. This is supported by a significant digital offering, including on social media and a new digital arts platform, for showcasing and for connecting all those interested in the two cultures, and how the UK and China work together.

### **British Council**

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries, and builds trust between them worldwide. We call this work cultural relations. We work in over 100 countries, connecting millions of people with the United Kingdom through programmes and services in the English language, the Arts, Education and Society. We believe these are the most effective means of engaging with others, and we have been doing this work since 1934. We work in English, Education and Society and Arts. Our work in the Arts involves the very best British and international artistic talent. We help increase audiences for international work in the UK and for UK work globally. We bring artists together and support the development of skills and policy in the arts and creative industries. Through this work we ensure that culture in its broadest sense plays a vital role in connecting with and understanding each other.

In these ways, the British Council builds links between UK people and institutions and those around the world, helping to create trust and lay foundations for prosperity and security around the world. [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

### **OCT LOFT**

OCT-LOFT, is located at the former eastern industrial zone, situated at the northeast of OCT, Shenzhen, and covers approximately 150,000 square meters, with the gross floor area exceeding 200,000 square meters. In August 2004, under the background of urbanization, the industrial zone was transformed into LOFT creative area. Since then, more than 200 various types of creative industries have been introduced into the loft, among which are local leading companies from fields of design, architecture, culture, digital media, and art education. OCT-LOFT has become one of the largest creative areas in southern China. Meanwhile, a number of significant art and design events have been held in the loft, such as the Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture (UABB), OCT-LOFT International Jazz Festival, OCT-LOFT Creative Festival, Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennale, and OCT-LOFT T-Street Creative Mart. [www.octloft.cn](http://www.octloft.cn)

### **Press information**

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# THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALJERY

PRESS IMAGES

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**Image 1**  
Patrick Ward  
*Pearlie Family, East London, 1977*  
© Patrick Ward  
Courtesy of the artist



**Image 2**  
Jane Bown, OBE  
*HRH Queen Elizabeth II, 2006*  
© Jane Bown  
Courtesy of The Guardian



**Image 3**  
Martin Parr  
*New Brighton, England from the series The Last Resort, 1983 - 1985*  
© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



**Image 4**  
Tim Walker  
*Alexander McQueen with skull and cigarettes, Clerkenwell, London, 2009*  
© Tim Walker  
Courtesy of the artist



**Image 5**  
Anna Fox  
*Red Arcade* from the series *Resort*, 2010  
© Anna Fox  
Courtesy of James Hyman Gallery, London and Tasveer Arts, Bangalore



**Image 6**  
Spencer Murphy  
Benedict Cumberbatch, 2010  
© Spencer Murphy  
Courtesy of the artist



**Image 7**  
Tom Wood  
*Mad Max*, 1993  
© Tom Wood  
Courtesy of the artist



**Image 8**  
Simon Roberts  
*Keynes Country Park Beach, Shornecote, Gloucestershire*, from the series *We English*, May 2008  
© Simon Roberts  
Courtesy of the artist



**Image 9**  
John Hinde  
*Picadilly by Night, London*. Photography by Elmar Ludwig, John Hinde Studios, 1960s  
© John Hinde Collection Ltd



**Image 10**  
James Barnor  
*Drum cover girl, Marie Hallowi, Kent*, 1966  
© James Barnor  
Courtesy of Autograph ABP

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