

PRESS RELEASE

9 September 2015

Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2015: Matthew Finn, Joanna Piotrowska and Tereza Zelenkova

Jerwood Space, London SE1

4 November – 13 December 2015

A group exhibition of new photography enabled by the first national Jerwood/Photoworks Awards will open at Jerwood Space London, 4 November - 13 December 2015, touring to Impressions Gallery, Bradford 5 January - 19 March 2016.

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. His Jerwood/Photoworks Award has enabled him to revisit this series at an emotional time that has seen his mother move from her family home into an assisted living residence. Matthew's mother's mental health has changed her role in the portraits from active participant to one of an observed subject; shifting 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. Her Jerwood/Photoworks Award has also enabled a research trip to Nagorno Karabakh - a conflict zone on the Armenian and Azerbaijani border. Joanna was prevented by the authorities from photographing the abandoned city but needed to take photographs to prove herself an artist rather than a spy. She turned her gaze away from the forbidden ruins and towards the many rosebushes found in the city – adding an extra layer of symbolism to the flowers.

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.

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 announcing the call for entries for the 2017 Jerwood/Photoworks Awards in autumn 2016.

All press enquiries to Anna-Maria Pfab, pfabanna@gmail.com 07794 347 633

Notes to Editors

Exhibition Information

Title: Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2015
Dates: 4 November -- 13 December 2015
Address: Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN
Opening Times: Mon–Fri from 10am–5pm, Sat & Sun from 10am–3pm
Admission: Free
Nearest Tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough
Website: www.jerwoodvisualarts.org
Twitter: #JPA15 @ photoworks_uk @JerwoodJVA

Jerwood Visual Arts will host a series of evening events to accompany the exhibition. Events are free but must be booked in advance, for more information please check the Jerwood Visual Arts website: jerwoodvisualarts.org

The exhibition will show at Impressions Gallery, Bradford, 5 January - 19 March 2016.

The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a new 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. It is anticipated that the Awards will be presented every two years. The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2015 Mentors are 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.

Matthew Finn (b1970 United Kingdom) received an MA in Photography from Westminster University in 2007. Matthew is a photography lecturer at West London University. Matthew uses the people and events directly surrounding his life as visual references for projects that sometimes take years to realise.
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

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 Absense of Myth*, was selected as one of the best black and white photobooks of 2013 by The Telegraph
terezazelenkova.com

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 @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 @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

Impressions Gallery helps people understand the world through photography. The Gallery collaborates with photographers and organisations nationally and internationally to commission, exhibit and publish photography. Established in 1972 as one of the first specialist photographic galleries in Europe, Impressions has grown to become one of the UK's leading independent venues for contemporary photography.

impressions-gallery.com @ImpGalleryPhoto