

Purdy | Hicks

Building on the strength of recent exhibitions by Jorma Puranen, Chan-Hyo Bae and Susan Derges, Purdy Hicks Gallery will be showing unseen work by a number of British and international photographers this summer **8 July - 28 August**

HANNAH COLLINS'S *True Stories* continuing series of images spans a number of years. They are like an opening sequence to a film, each being the film of that day. Sequences of remembered films, novels, events, observations and colours are revisited - each a cataloguing of an urban mental world.

Hannah Collins (born UK, 1956) studied at the Slade School of Fine Arts in London and in USA with the Fulbright Scholarship. She has had many international exhibitions and her work is in numerous collections including Tate, Centre Pompidou Paris, Reina Sofia Madrid, and the Dallas Museum of Art. Nominated for the Turner Prize (1993), Hannah Collins received the European Photography Award (1991) and the Olympus Award (2004). She lives and works between London and Barcelona.

Much of **SUSAN DERGES'S** recent work has been made at night in the open air, tracking the sky with a camera and returning to the darkroom to combine camera based and camera-less techniques. She writes, 'What I did was to extend the notion of the darkroom to incorporate the whole of the landscape by simply choosing to work at night. Once that decision had been made a great deal became possible.'

Susan Derges (born UK, 1955) trained as a painter before turning to photography, and in particular to the camera-less photography for which she, along with contemporaries such as Adam Fuss, has become internationally renowned. Susan Derges has work in museums and public collections all over the world, including the Hara Art Museum Tokyo, Metropolitan Museum New York, and the Victoria & Albert Museum. She was one of the finalists for the prestigious Prix Pictet Photography Prize (2008) and she is to be included in a major show of camera-less photography at the Victoria & Albert Museum (2010). A monograph will be published next year by Steidl with an essay by Martin Barnes, Senior Curator of Photographs at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

SHADI GHADIRIAN'S *Qajar* series consists of small studio portraits of women dressed in the 19th Century Qajar style. The backgrounds of these portraits resemble those found in photographic studios of that period to which the artist has added some modern anomalies or dissonances. Playing with these juxtapositions and contrasts Ghadirian expresses the difficulties women face in Iran today - torn between tradition and the modernity of globalization

Shadi Ghadirian (born Iran, 1974) studied photography at Azad University (Tehran). She says that "quite by accident", the subjects of her first two series were "women". Her work is intimately linked to her identity as a Muslim woman living in Iran. Nonetheless, her art also deals with issues relevant to women living in other parts of the world. She questions the role of women in society and explores ideas of censorship, religion, modernity, and the status of women.

Over the years, **TOM HUNTER** has made work on the community of travellers he knows as Hackney neighbours and friends. He is currently showing a series of unique and surprising portraits at the Museum of London as well as four bodies of work at the Arts Gallery at the University of the Arts , Davies Street, W1.

Tom Hunter (born UK, 1965) graduated from the London College of Printing with a BA First Class Honours and took his MA at the Royal College of Art, London [1997]. Winner of the John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award (1998), Hunter was the first artist to have a photography show at the National Gallery, London (2006).

ABBAS KIAROSTAMI has spoken of photography as a purer medium than film, since it is unburdened by narrative and the need to entertain, stating, 'One single picture could be the mother of cinema. That's where cinema starts, with one single picture'.

Abbas Kiarostami (born Iran, 1940) is an internationally renowned film director, screenwriter and producer, having directed such critically acclaimed works as *A Taste of Cherry* (1997) and *The Koker Trilogy* (1987-94). He has been involved in over forty films and has won numerous awards, including the Palm d'Or (1997). As well as a distinguished film career, Kiarostami is a well-known poet, photographer and painter.

The astonishing image quality of **RICHARD LEAROYD'S** photographs is achieved with painstaking methods akin to early processes of photography. Each one is unique. They are made directly onto colour positive paper inside a walk-in camera. Both the technique and Learoyd's style creates a sense of reverie: a lingering and intensified look suggesting a world of stillness and silence. Born in 1966, Learoyd studied at Glasgow School of Art. His work is in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum

JACKIE NICKERSON'S series *Faith* is a compelling portrayal of the Catholic religious orders of Ireland. Her combination of gentle portraits and simple documentation of daily rituals and communal devotion suggest an austere existence grounded in optimism, strength and contentment. The simplicity of these images invokes the muted and restrained palette of Fra Angelico, bringing an often beatific air to her tranquil subjects.

Jackie Nickerson (born Ireland, 1960) has lived and worked in Paris, Tokyo, London and New York, and currently lives in rural Ireland. With an international reputation for photographing people and their environments her work is represented in many important collections, such as the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Santa Monica Museum.

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