



1977-2002
OPENeye



March - July 2002

Ten Years After
The Close Seas
Liverpool Project

SUMMER



© MacDonald & Hogue

© MacDonald & Hogue



© Ken Grant



© Jan Struys

Mailing List

To receive our seasonal programme leaflets, listing all our current and forthcoming exhibitions and events, regularly through the post; or to be kept up to date with the latest news and details of the Open Eye programme via email, then please either fill out the form opposite or log on to our website at www.openeye.org.uk and send us your details



© Open Eye

Name

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Email

Please tick which of the following you wish to be added to:

Mailing List - Free

☐

Email - Free.

☐

What does it mean to be a city-dweller? What makes the experiencing of one city different to that of another? What gives a city its identity?

The work that makes up the new programme to celebrate Open Eye's 25th anniversary year responds to these questions in different ways.

Merseysider Ken Grant's work is a personal response to his home city. Engaging long-term with communities and families as an 'insider' has enabled the photographer to document personal histories and changing times with a quiet compassionate eye.

Swedish photographer, Jan Svenungsson, was asked to come to a city he had never visited before, a place that to him was tied up in mythology, and make an immediate response to it. In his intense wanderings of Liverpool, the Berlin-based photographer

has picked out places that may be familiar to us, but make us look at them again, as well as discovering hidden gems under our noses that we may never have noticed.

Jamie Macdonald and Hector are also outsiders to the city they have chosen to chronicle. Over a decade, the two photographers – one Teesside-born, the other coming from New England, USA – have captured London-living in all its beauty and ugliness, its compassion and cruelty. Presented with a pulsating soundtrack, the exhibition captures the essence of the capital city, in the present tense.

Each of the exhibitions shown during this programme demonstrates a different way of working and engaging. Four photographers, four different ways of looking at the world. Three excellent exhibitions.

Ten Years After 16 March – 20 April 2002

Jamie Macdonald & Hector

Ten Years After is a raw and emotional journey through contemporary urban life as seen through the lives of its authors Jamie Macdonald and Hector. Combining photographs with a 4-screen audio-visual projection, the exhibition charts their individual and shared experiences of living in London in the closing decade of the 20th Century to create a reflective and meditative insight into the modern urban human condition.

Though hailing from different backgrounds, eras and scenes – Jamie growing up in Teesside during the seventies and eighties and Hector in New England, USA during the sixties and seventies, they found, through the sharing of each other's stories and photographs, that they both shared



common sensibilities and experiences. Hector arrived in London in 1989, Jamie moved from Teesside a year later. Ten Years After then is the culmination of their individual photographic pursuits over ten years spent in London, a body of work that whilst obviously highly personal, becomes, through its transference into its present form, as much about the allure and life of a major metropolis as that of its authors.

Jamie Macdonald & Hector will be giving a gallery talk at Open Eye on Saturday 16 March at 2pm. Admission Free.



The Close Season 4 May – 8 June 2002

by Ken Grant

The Close Season by Ken Grant is a moving and powerful portrayal of changing Liverpool communities. With understated eloquence and celebration of detail, Grant has found an ability to deal with the disquiet, uncertainty and intimate encounters of family life amongst his contemporaries.

Ken Grant started to photograph in Liverpool in the mid 1980's, and has rarely strayed more than a few miles from the River Mersey in his work. What began as a way of remembering the craftspeople and labourers he grew up around (in his words 'my ever changing colleagues') developed into a



response to the transience of traditional labour in the region in general, and the social and cultural celebrations that offered respite and strength.

Ken Grant's work is held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York and V&A Museum, London. He has exhibited widely, most recently at the House of Photography, Berlin 2001.

Ken Grant will be in conversation with Photographer Paul Seawright, Head of The Centre for Photographic Research at University of Wales College Newport, at Open Eye Gallery on Saturday 4 May at 2pm. Admission Free.



Liverpool Project 15 June – 20 July 2002

Jan Svenungsson

What is it that defines a city as a European Capital of Culture? It was this question that faced Swedish photographer Jan Svenungsson in 1999, on being commissioned to photograph the nine European Capitals of Culture for 2000. Jan approached his odyssey through Europe's culture capitals – Reykjavik, Brussels, Helsinki, Santiago de Compostela, Prague, Bologna, Bergen, Avignon and Krakow – by directing his attention to places and buildings within them that expressed a particular intensity to him. In each case however he was searching for different pieces of the same story – what it is that defines a Capital of Culture?

After seeing the results of this project in the exhibition 'Nine Cities' in 2000, we commissioned Jan to photograph Liverpool, itself in the process of bidding to become a European Capital of Culture for 2008. For Jan, Liverpool was an unknown but fascinating entity, a city immersed in a sense of modern European mythology. And so in June



2001, Jan came to Liverpool, 'walking, riding and travelling along the tracks of my curiosity through this bewildering drama of contrasts, confusion and beauty'. The resulting 'Liverpool Project' portrays a city that does not necessarily exist outside of the photographs contained within, but one searching for its own pieces of the same story – that which defines a European Capital of Culture.

Jan Svenungsson will be discussing the 'Liverpool Project' at Open Eye on Saturday 15 June at 2pm. Admission Free.

Photographs from the original 'Nine Cities' exhibition will be on display at the Conservation Centre, NMGM during this exhibition.

Financially supported by Liverpool Culture Company.



Open Eye Gallery is situated in the heart of Liverpool City Centre, within five minutes reach of the main rail and bus stations.

Opening Times

Tuesday-Friday 10.30am - 5.30pm

Saturday 10.30am - 5.00pm

Closed Sundays and Mondays

and Easter Weekend from

29 March - 2 April 2002.

Admission is free.

Wheelchair Access

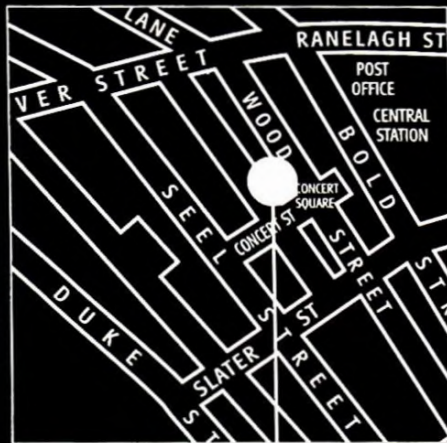
The entrance to Open Eye is above street level but is fitted with an external vertical platform lift.

The gallery is fully accessible throughout by wheelchair and there are toilet facilities for wheelchair users.

Open Eye is funded by North West Arts Board, The Arts Council of England and Liverpool City Council. Supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of England. Sponsorship from C3 imaging and the Liverpool Culture Company towards the exhibition programme is gratefully acknowledged. Open Eye is a company limited by guarantee No.1204519 and is a registered charity No.1056743



C3imaging



Open Eye Gallery
28-32 Wood Street
Liverpool L1 4AQ
Tel 0151 709 9460
Fax 0151 709 3059

Email: info@openeye.org.uk
Web: www.openeye.org.uk

INFO