

PRESS RELEASE
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Jerwood/Photoworks Awards: new work by Alejandra Carles-Tolra, Sam Laughlin and Lua Ribeira

Jerwood Space, London 17 January - 11 March 2018
touring to Bradford and Belfast



© Alejandra Carles-Tolra



© Sam Laughlin



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Touring to Bradford and Belfast

New work by **Alejandra Carles-Tolra, Sam Laughlin and Lua Ribeira** shows at Jerwood Space, London in the second Jerwood/Photoworks Awards exhibition 17 January - 11 March 2018. The exhibition explores themes of such as death, belonging and the fragility of the natural world. Following its London premiere, the show will tour across the UK to venues including Impressions Gallery, Bradford and Belfast Exposed. Spectrum Photographic is the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards official print partner.

Alejandra Carles-Tolra is interested in the relationship between individual and group identity and how one identity influences the other. In *Where We Belong* she explores themes of belonging, femininity and escapism by following a group of Jane Austen devotees.

Sam Laughlin's series *A Certain Movement* is a meditation on the state of the natural world and our place within it. His work focuses on patterns of animal behaviour and intricate natural processes occurring all around us. Close observations of various species and the signs suggesting their presence in the landscape, allow us to enter intimate and fragile spaces, increasingly marginalised by human activities.

Lua Ribeira's constructed series *Subida al Cielo* (heavenly ascent) is a personal visualisation, built on the fear of dying. Motivated by escape from reality and the longing for mythological significance in contemporary life, the work is an allegorical exploration of the inevitable decay of the human body, in relation to classical mythology and religious symbols of mortality.

Following a national open call, the three Awardees were selected from over 350 artists by Celia Davies - Director of Photoworks, Sarah Williams - Head of Programme at Jerwood Visual Arts, Anna Fox - photographer, Ori Gersht - photographer and Mark Durden - writer and photographer.

With a bursary of £5,000 each and access to a significant production fund to make new work, the artists underwent a year of developmental support from photography specialists such as Mitch Epstein, Michael Mack and Maureen Paley plus the teams at Photoworks and Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

In a joint statement Celia Davies, Director of Photoworks and Sarah Williams, Head of Programme, Jerwood Visual Arts said:

We are delighted to be presenting this, the second edition of the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, a unique opportunity, recognising and supporting potential with a distinctive combination of mentoring, production resources, and a national exhibition tour. It has been an incredible year of dialogue and development for the Awardees who have each received support from the team at Photoworks and Jerwood Charitable Foundation and insights from our brilliant mentors. It's been a privilege to see their ideas develop and this year's exhibition is truly diverse, both in the subjects explored and the artists' individual approaches to image-making. The Awards have already proved to be an important platform for artists and we look forward to seeing Alejandra, Lua and Sam's careers continue to flourish.

Exhibition information

Jerwood Space: 17 January – 11 March 2018

Title: Jerwood/Photoworks Awards: Alejandra Carles-Tolra, Sam Laughlin and Lua Ribeira

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: jerwoodvisualarts.org

UK Tour dates include:

Impressions Gallery: 6 April – 23 June 2018

Belfast Exposed: 2 November – 22 December 2018

Twitter: #JPAwards @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

Notes to Editors

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

Image Credits

© Alejandra Carles-Tolra, *Untitled*, from the series *Where We Belong*, originally commissioned through the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, 2017

© Sam Laughlin, *Honeybee Swarm (Apis Mellifera)*, from the series *A Certain Movement*, originally commissioned through the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, 2017

© Lua Ribeira, *Untitled*, from the series *Subida al Cielo*, originally commissioned through the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, 2017

Hi res and further images available on request

Project Credit

The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Photoworks, supported by Arts Council England and Spectrum Photographic.

Artist Biographies

Alejandra Carles-Tolra (b.1988, Spain) Alejandra received a BA in Sociology from the University of Barcelona and a Photography MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Alejandra's work has been published and exhibited internationally, most recently at *Vice*, *The Huffington Post*, *Gup Magazine*, *World Photography Organization*, *The Independent*, Circulation(s) Festival in Paris, Getty Images Gallery in London and Wuhan Art Museum in China. She has taught photography at The University of New Hampshire and Massachusetts College of Art and Design, among other institutions. Alejandra currently works with non-profit organisations as an art workshop facilitator using art and education to empower vulnerable communities. alejandractr.com

Sam Laughlin (b.1990, U.K.) Sam studied Documentary Photography at the University of South Wales, Newport. He has exhibited widely both in the UK and internationally, including at the Regency Town House for Brighton Photo Fringe 2016 where he was awarded the Danny Wilson Memorial Award. He works mainly on artistic commissions, most recently for John Hansard Gallery, Southampton. samlaughlin.co.uk

Lua Ribeira (b. 1986, Galicia, Spain) studied Sciences of Information at University of Vigo and Graphic Design at Bau, Escola Superior de Disseny, Barcelona. She graduated in Documentary Photography from the University of South Wales, Newport in 2016. Lua's work has been awarded the Firecracker Grant 2015, and shortlisted for the 2016 Bar Tur Photobook Award. Lua has participated in The Independent Air Residency, Denmark 2015 and group exhibitions in the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and Germany. Her work was selected by Susan Meiselas for *Raw View Magazine's Women looking at Women*, and features in *Firecrackers*, *Female Photographers Now*, published by Thames & Hudson in 2017. Her work has been showcased by Photo España 2014, *British Journal of Photography's Ones to Watch 2017*, Ian Parry Scholarship 2016, Gazebook Photobook festival, and *A Fine Beginning: Contemporary Welsh Photography*. Her first solo show and accompanying publication *Noises in the Blood* launched at Fishbar Gallery, London in 2017. luaribeira.com

About the Awards

Founded in 2015, the **Jerwood/Photoworks Awards** are a collaboration between Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Photoworks, supported by Arts Council England and Official Print Partner, Spectrum Photographic. They are presented every two years as part of Jerwood Visual Arts, in London and on tour nationally.

Each Awardee receives an award of £5,000 to support the time and space to research and develop new work, with access to a production fund of up to £5,000 each and has enjoyed advice over a year-long period from an impressive mentoring panel.

The most recent mentor panel comprises: James Barnor – photographer; Rut Blees Luxemburg, photographer; Bruno Ceschel - writer, curator; Tim Clark, curator and editor; Carolyn Cooper – writer; Celia Davies, Director, Photoworks; Mark Durden, writer and photographer; Mitch Epstein, photographer; Fariba Farshad, curator; Anna Fox, photographer; Ori Gersht, photographer; Francis Hodgson, writer/art adviser; Mårten Lange – photographer; Michael Mack, publisher; Maureen Paley, gallerist; Mark Power, photographer and Sarah Williams, Head of Programme, Jerwood Visual Arts.

The winners of the inaugural Jerwood/Photoworks Awards were Matthew Finn, Joanna Piotrowska and Tereza Zelenkova.

Photoworks is a national development agency for photography who produce internationally renowned events including **Brighton Photo Biennial** and the visual culture journal **Photoworks Annual**. Photoworks commission new work, new writing, learning and participation projects and support talent through programmes including the **Jerwood/Photoworks Awards**. Photoworks aims to connect outstanding artists with audiences and champion talent and ambition. Photoworks is a charity and National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England
photoworks.org.uk @photoworks_uk

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

Jerwood Visual Arts is a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing, taking place online, in London and across the UK.

jerwoodvisualarts.org @JerwoodJVA

Spectrum Photographic is a professional imaging lab specialising in fine art and photographic printing as well as archival mounting. Situated in the heart of Brighton, our work has been exhibited in art galleries and museums worldwide: we are proud of our reputation for high quality and pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service. Founded in 1993, Spectrum has flourished into one of the UK's leading photographic printing and finishing centres.

spectrumphoto.co.uk @SpectrumLab

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 is a charity and National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England.

impressions-gallery.com @ImpGalleryPhoto

Belfast Exposed was founded in 1983 as a community photography collective that set out to challenge mainstream media representation of Northern Ireland during the Troubles. It is now Northern Ireland's principal gallery of contemporary photography, commissioning, publishing and showing work by artists and photographers from Ireland and across the world. Recent exhibitions have included new commissions by Martin Parr, Bertien van Manen, solo shows by Geert Goiris, Michael Wolf, Hans Peter Feldmann, Allan Sekula and Taryn Simon. We house an archive of over 500,000 community photography images, run an international programme for early career artists from Ireland and roll out a nationwide training and education programme.

belfastexposed.org @BelfastExposed

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