

Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2020
Silvia Rosi and Theo Simpson

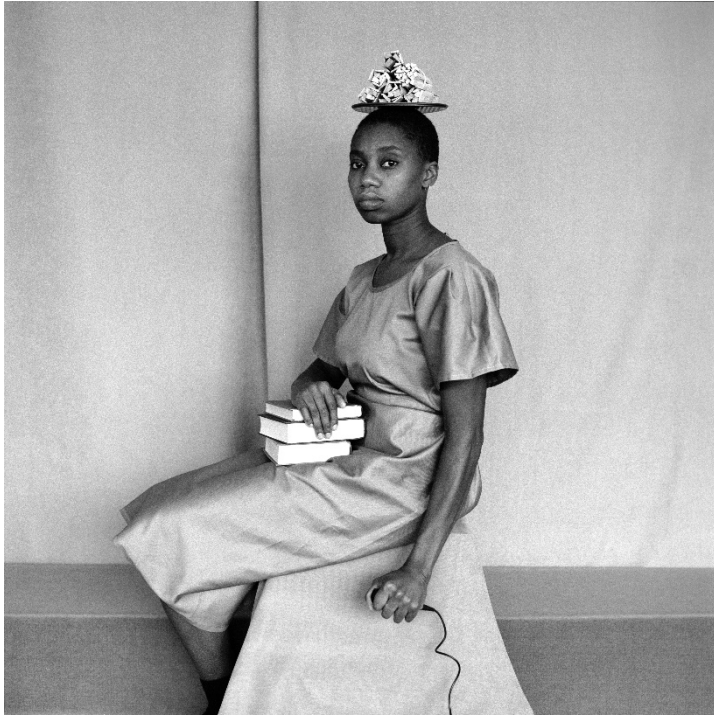


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Jerwood Arts, 15 January – 8 March 2020
Press View 14 January, 9:00am-10:30am

Artists **Silvia Rosi** and **Theo Simpson** will exhibit newly commissioned photographic works at Jerwood Arts, London, from 15 January 2020 as part of the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2020. Both artists explore the idea of history through their photographic practices, across themes of family, industry, identity and architecture. Over the past 12 months, these two early-career artists have developed new bodies of work, which has seen them both pushing the boundaries of what photographic practices can be, supported by expert mentors, including artist Roger Palmer and curator Renée Mussai. These will be exhibited for the first time at Jerwood Arts, and will then tour the UK, including Belfast Exposed and Street Level Photoworks in Glasgow in 2021.

Silvia Rosi's work explores her personal family history drawing on her Togolaise heritage, and the idea of origins. Her mother, who has been an inspiration for much of her previous work, plays a central role in this project, as well as her father, and their experiences of migration from Togo in West Africa to Italy. This theme of family is explored through self-portraits in which Silvia plays her mother and father, and is partially informed by the West African studio portrait. This family history and her position as a European looking back on her family heritage is also explored through a visual deconstruction of head carrying techniques, a practice with its own histories, skills, rituals and aesthetics. Silvia's family history has a strong connection to this traditional practice, due to her

mother's previous job as a market trader. For this exhibition, Silvia's work will include new examples of colour and black and white photography, as well as video works for the first time.

Theo Simpson's work is informed by the tradition of landscape photography, through this he explores human possibility, political impulses and economic transformations. Theo's work aims to push the boundaries of photography as a medium, particularly by using sculptural elements. He also combines archival images with photographs he has captured at various sites. The regional landscapes he photographs link with the engineering techniques and materials, such as steel and coal anchors. Through this manipulation of images, as with his piece *Drift* (above) which appropriated a 1971 protest against Britain joining the European Economic Community, Theo creates representative works, which touch on the idea of history repeating itself.

Following a national open call, the two awardees were selected from over 450 submissions of UK-based artists using photography within 10 years of establishing their practice. The selection panel for the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2020 was: **Aaron Schuman**, artist; **Marta Weiss**, Curator of Photographs at V&A Museums; **Shama Khanna**, freelance curator and writer; **Shoair Mavlian**, Director of Photoworks; and **Lilli Geissendorfer**, Director of Jerwood Arts.

Lilli Geissendorfer, Director, Jerwood Arts says, "*We are delighted to be launching 2020 with an exhibition of new photographic commissions by Silvia Rosi and Theo Simpson at Jerwood Arts in London. The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards is a key part of our mission to support outstanding artists from across the UK to develop and thrive at a pivotal point in their practice. Over the past 12 months Silvia and Theo have been developing distinctive bodies of work that explore history and identity through family, industry and place; considering the unique role of photography in giving voice to these subjects.*"

Shoair Mavlian, Director, Photoworks, adds, "*The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards is an important part of our programme and in 2020 will be an exciting start to our 25th anniversary year. The award gives opportunities to talented early career artists and helps to cultivate the exploration, expansion and development of their practices. Silvia Rosi and Theo Simpson's work stood out to us for numerous reasons. What is so exciting in this year's recipients is that for both Silvia and Theo what is central to their practices is how photography integrates other mediums.*"

Presented every two years, the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are open to artists using photography who are based in the UK and within 10 years of establishing their practice. The Awards particularly seek to encourage artists and photographers exploring new approaches to photography, and/or whose practice is experimental. The awards give £10,000 to each of the recipients to develop new work to exhibit at Jerwood Arts, London, and on the subsequent UK tour. It also provides a production fund of £5,000 and high profile mentoring support from an international panel of experts, alongside curatorial and artistic development support from both Jerwood Arts and Photoworks, and in kind printing from Official Print Partner Spectrum Photographic.

A free events programme hosted at Jerwood Arts and a full-colour publication including newly commissioned writing about the artists' work will accompany the exhibition.

Following the exhibition at Jerwood Arts, the works will tour across the UK including at Belfast Exposed (4 March - 24 April 2021); and Street Level Photoworks, Glasgow (3 July - 12 Sept 2021). Other tour dates and venues to be announced.

Exhibition listing:

Title: Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2020
Dates: 15 January – 8 March 2020
Address: Jerwood Arts, 171 Union Street, Bankside, London, SE1 0LN
Opening Hours: Mon – Sat: 10am – 5pm / Closed Sundays
Open until 8pm on the last Friday of every month during exhibitions
Admission: Free
Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough
Website: jerwoodarts.org
Twitter: @JerwoodArts @photoworks_uk #JPAwards

–ENDS–

For further information about Jerwood/Photoworks Award please contact Maggie Eckel and Harriet Clarke at Four Culture:

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Notes to Editors

Photo Credit

Self Portrait As My Mother In School Uniform (2019), Silvia Rosi, Giclée Hahnemühle Photo Rag Pearl, 698 x 698mm

Drift (2019), Theo Simpson, Layered painted, screen printed and clear coated aluminium/steel panels mounted on laser cut, pressed and painted (Black acrylic primer / satin clear coat) 18-gauge cold rolled steel chassis 800 x 600 x 15mm

Project Credit

The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Photoworks, supported by official print partner Spectrum Photographic.

Artist Biographies

Silvia Rosi (b.1992, Scandiano, Italy) is an Italian/Togolaise London based artist, working with photography and video to explore ideas of memory, migration and diaspora. She graduated from London College of Communication in 2016 with a BA (Hons) in Photography. Recent exhibitions include Presenting Cultural Connections, 1:54 Art Fair, Somerset House (2019); Emergence, The Art Pavilion, Mile End (2016); Beyond the Camera, Pingyao International Photography Festival (2016); Black Blossom Exhibition - Highlighting the Voices of Black Women (2016). Silvia Rosi recently undertook a Thread residency in Senegal, which she also spoke about at a talk for 1:54 A Contemporary African Art Fair.

Theo Simpson (b.1986, Doncaster) lives and works in Lincolnshire, UK. Recent exhibitions include *Toward the Metal*, solo show, Photo London, Somerset House, London (2019); *Loading*, group show, Foam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2018); *Part and Whole*, solo show, Foam 3H,

Amsterdam (2018); *A Green and Pleasant Land*, group show, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne (2017); *The land of the day before*, solo show, Webber Gallery, London (2017). He was also the 2017 Outset Unseen Exhibition Fund Winner. Theo Simpson is featured in public collections including, Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland; Foam photography museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Tate Artists' Book Library, London, UK.

About the Awards

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

Each Awardee receives an award of £10,000 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 been supported over a year-long period by an impressive mentoring panel. Silvia Rosi's main mentor is artist Renée Mussai, Senior Curator and Head of Archive & Research at Autograph, and Theo Simpson was primarily supported by photographer Roger Palmer. Artists previously supported through the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are: Matthew Finn, Joanna Piotrowska and Tereza Zelenkova, Alejandra Carles-Tolra, Sam Laughlin and Lua Ribeira.

Jerwood Arts

Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, bursaries, fellowships, projects, programmes and commissions. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together through our exhibitions and events in London, as well as across the UK. www.jerwoodarts.org

Photoworks

Photoworks is an international platform for contemporary photography. Photoworks' programme includes commissions, new writing, digital projects and participation events, such as the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, Photoworks Annual and a Photo Biennial. Photoworks is a registered charity, based at the University of Brighton and is a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England. photoworks.org.uk @photoworks_uk

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