

# PHOTO LONDON

## PHOTO LONDON ANNOUNCES 2019 PAVILION COMMISSION TO CELEBRATE WOMEN IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo London has announced details of the annual Pavilion Commission Programme for the 2019 Fair, which returns to Somerset House 16 – 19 May (Preview 15 May) to showcase the very best of the past, present and future of photography. To celebrate the Fair's fifth edition, and with the generous support of The Royal Photographic Society and Sea Containers London, this year's installation takes the theme of Women in Photography, celebrating the work of three very different women photographers – **Rachel Louise Brown**, **Mary McCartney** and **Susan Meiselas** – whose work will appear on the sides of the Fair's main Pavilion in the central courtyard of Somerset House.

The Fair has long championed the role of women in photography whether as artists, gallerists or curators. Almost half of the galleries taking part in this year's Fair are run by women and 40% of the artists on show are women, significantly higher than the overall art fair participation rate by women artists of 27% announced in the latest Art Market Report by Art Basel/UBS. Even with such a favourable comparison to the overall trend there is still work to do as Photo London's Co-Founder, Fariba Farshad, points out:

'Although our own participation figures show an encouraging trend, they cannot mask the fact that photography remains a male dominated profession. Our very first courtyard commission – even before we began building pavilions in that space – was Rut Blees Luxemburg's 'The Teaser'. We selected that work because we were determined, from the outset, to inspire and empower women artists. With this year's commission we seek to take that ambition to another level by celebrating the work of these three outstanding artists. We are grateful to both The Royal Photographic Society and to Sea Containers London for supporting this year's installation programme.'

### The Artists

**Rachel Louise Brown's** 'Simulations' makes its first UK appearance on the Photo London Pavilion. The work was recently created over a four-year collaboration between the artist and Palm Beach Photographic Centre, Florida. Initially inspired by Jean Baudrillard's idea of 'imagination stations'; environments created to entertain society, Brown wandered the streets of West Palm Beach alone at night in search of simulated environments and also placed casting calls in the Palm Beach Daily News to work with local strangers. The resulting fictional narratives translate heightened psychological states in both herself and her subjects. Brown says, 'I wanted to depict Florida's heady mix of escapism and entertainment while at the same time place myself in unpredictable situations to explore a sense of fear and my own thrill-seeking'. In her quest, Brown photographed Palm Beach Zoo, Mar-a-lago, Fright Nights at the South Florida Fairground, The Breakers Hotel as well as travelling further across the state to Disney World and the mermaid show at Weeki Waachi Springs. The Pavilion Commission is curated by Maggie O'Regan

**Mary McCartney** will present unseen work from her seminal series 'Off Pointe – A Photographic Study of the Royal Ballet After Hours' which captures ballet dancers in unguarded, behind-the-scenes moments as they prepare for performances at The Royal Opera House. McCartney says 'I want to present the real individuals behind the mask. To document the hidden details of the ballet world and reveal the contrast between the sometimes gruelling, painful lifestyle of the dancers and their fairy-tale performances.'

**Susan Meiselas** will feature her most recent work 'A Room of Their Own' which explores the lives of women who are survivors of domestic abuse. It is a multi-layered, visual story consisting of photographs, first hand testimonies, and original art works, created as a collaboration between the artist and an illustrator, a writer and the women themselves. Meiselas says 'Each room, like each life, is unique. The image of a space is a record and also a kind of mirror. The woman is absent, yet present. The photographs serve as a memory of each landscape, and each woman, at a particular point in time. I wanted to show the possibilities of life within and beyond the walls, and during and after the time when those walls were most needed.'

'A Room of Their Own' was supported by Multistory and the book of the project was published by Multistory and Here Press.

## **The Photo London Pavilion Commission Programme**

Photo London's Pavilion Commission Programme was launched in 2016 with Wolfgang Tillman's anti-Brexit installation. Since then the programme has been a showcase for works by William Klein, Daido Moriyama, Giles Caron, Thomas Albdorf, Hannah Klaus Pitcher, Stephanie Moshammer, Daniel Gebhart de Koekkoek and the acclaimed Korean photographers Noh Suntag and Bae Bien-U.

## **The Supporters**

The 2019 Pavilion Commission Programme is proudly presented by Sea Containers London and The Royal Photographic Society.

## **Photo London 2019**

16 – 19 May 2019  
Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA  
[www.photolondon.org](http://www.photolondon.org)  
#PhotoLondonFair19  
#PhotoLondonWeek

## **Press Enquiries**

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## **Media Partner: FT Weekend**

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **About the artists:**

#### **Rachel Louise Brown**

Rachel Louise Brown (b.1985, England) graduated from the MA photography course at the Royal College of Art (London) in 2011, following a Critical Certificate in Photography at the School of Visual Arts (NYC), 2009 and BA (Hons) Photography degree from the London College of Communication in 2008. Brown has exhibited her work internationally, been selected for artist residencies in Sicily, France and the USA, and was recently a UK winner of The Magenta Foundation Flash Forward awards (2017). Alongside her art practice, Brown is the Photography Director of *Harper's Bazaar* and *Town & Country* (UK editions) an associate lecturer of photography at the University of Huddersfield and Leeds Arts University and Chair of the Royal Photographic Society Youth Council.

#### **Mary McCartney**

Born in London in 1969, Mary McCartney's photographic work has focused on discovering those rare moments of unguarded, emotionally charged intimacy that offer new insight to the subject. Her exhibitions

include 'Off-Pointe' an in-depth photographic study of the Royal Ballet after hours, part of which is in the permanent collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum, London. McCartney has also exhibited at the Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, Gagosian Gallery & Staley Wise Gallery in NYC. The National History Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, Michael Hoppen Gallery, London and at the Lowry Museum, Salford.

### **Susan Meiselas**

Susan Meiselas is a documentary photographer who lives and works in New York. She is the author of *Carnival Strippers* (1976), *Nicaragua* (1981), *Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History* (1997), *Pandora's Box* (2001), *Encounters with the Dani* (2003) *Prince Street Girls* (2016) and *A Room Of Their Own* (2017). She has co-edited two published collections: *El Salvador, Work of 30 Photographers* (1983) and *Chile from Within* (1990), rereleased as an e-book in 2013, and also co-directed two films: *Living at Risk* (1985) and *Pictures from a Revolution* (1991) with Richard P. Rogers and Alfred Guzzetti. Meiselas is well known for her documentation of human rights issues in Latin America. Her photographs are included in American and international collections. In 1992 she was made a MacArthur Fellow and most recently was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship (2015). *Mediations*, a survey exhibition of her work from the 1970s to present was recently exhibited at the Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Jeu de Paume, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

### **About Photo London**

Photo London was created to give London an international photography event befitting the city's status as a global cultural capital. Founded in 2015, it has already established itself as a world-class photography Fair and as a catalyst for London's dynamic photography community. From the capital's major museums to its auction houses, galleries large and small, right into the burgeoning creative community in the East End and South London, Photo London harnesses the city's outstanding creative talent and brings the world's leading photographers, curators, exhibitors and dealers together with the public to celebrate photography, the medium of our time.

### **About Sea Containers London**

Set within the Sea Containers building - originally designed by American architect Warren Platner - on London's South Bank, Sea Containers London has always had a strong connection to the art and design world. An anchor to London's Cultural Mile, the iconic design hotel is a champion of creative communities and has long been a supporter of the arts in London. The 359-room hotel was designed by Design Research Studio under the creative direction of visionary Tom Dixon and is home to an experimental cocktail bar, Lyanness, spearheaded by acclaimed barman Ryan Chetiyawardana (AKA Mr Lyan), Sea Containers restaurant serving modern ingredient-led cuisine and 12th Knot, a rooftop lounge with panoramic views over the River Thames. Sea Containers London also has a maritime inspired 56-seat Curzon cinema and spa, aqua London.

[www.seacontainerslondon.com](http://www.seacontainerslondon.com)

### **About The Royal Photographic Society**

The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) is an international charitable organisation that exists to encourage public appreciation of photography through promotion of the highest standards of achievement. Founded in 1853, it was one of the few societies that unconditionally welcomed female members, and included many women who made a significant contribution to photographic history. To celebrate the centenary of women's suffrage in the UK in 2018, the RPS launched the Hundred Heroines campaign to highlight the major – and yet often overlooked - contribution of female photographers across the globe. The RPS has a worldwide membership of more than 11,000 and membership is open to all. 2019 marks the start of a new phase in the society's evolution with the opening of a new photographic centre in Bristol to widen public engagement. [rps.org](http://rps.org)

### **About Somerset House**

*Inspiring contemporary culture*

One of the city's most spectacular and well-loved spaces, Somerset House is a new kind of arts centre in the heart of London, designed for today's audiences, artists and creatives – an inspirational community where contemporary culture is imagined, created and experienced.

From its 18th Century origins, Somerset House has played a central role in our society as a place where our culture and collective understanding of the world is shaped and defined. In 2000, it began its reinvention as a cultural powerhouse and home for arts and culture today, creating unique and stimulating experiences for the public, bringing them into direct contact with ideas from the greatest artists, makers and thinkers of our time. Our distinctive and dynamic year-round programme spans the contemporary arts in all its forms, from cutting-edge exhibitions and installations to annual festivals, seasonal events in the courtyard including Film4 Summer Screen, Summer Series and Skate, and an extensive learning and engagement programme.

As well as welcoming over 3million visitors annually, Somerset House houses the largest and most diverse creative communities in the country – from one-person start-ups to successful creative enterprises including British Fashion Council, Dance Umbrella, Improbable Theatre, Hofesh Shechter Company, and Dartmouth Films.

In 2016 we launched Somerset House Studios – a new experimental workspace connecting artists, makers and thinkers with audiences. Currently housing over 80 artists and Makerversity (a community of over 250 emergent makers), the Studios are a platform for the development of new creative projects and collaboration, promoting work that pushes bold ideas, engages with urgent issues and pioneers new technologies.

[www.somersethouse.org.uk](http://www.somersethouse.org.uk)

