

## BIOGRAPHY

Ben Elwes' practice uses digital and analogue still photography, HD video and mixed media. Within his body of work Elwes introduces found objects and materials relating to themes he is addressing, and he responds to events and situations that appeal to him at a given moment. Elwes is drawn to the urban environment if not exclusively, where observations made can form the basis of new work. Although themes can appear localised, they often involve ideas that are trans globally shared.

Elwes is interested in a variety of stories and patterns that life produces on the street, in the home on TV and elsewhere. He will identify an event, a moment or a group of people and dedicate himself to that idea immediately or over months or years. A theme that he is consumed with is the relationship between both media and advertising in its broadest term and its audience or us. With increasingly complex strategies devised by corporations to command our attention via media outlets, we are involuntarily beholden to powers that are not easy to quantify despite frequently influencing our judgements, the values and attitudes of which constantly permeate our lives and impact our psychology. This appears to be the price we pay for living in a Capitalist environment in the early part of the 21st Century. Elwes uses a variety of types of consumer items from prestige cars to discarded polystyrene packaging found on the street as material for his work, alluding to that theme.

A significant theme that also underlies Elwes' work is events that identify and define change: in a world of flux important moments pass quickly and are soon superseded by others. Elwes work is concerned with such passing moments, whether that is a closing chain store, a political event, a social group or just a fleeting advertising campaign. These events might develop into a more valid document with the passage of time.

Elwes' work has been exhibited at national and international venues including the National Portrait Gallery and The Photographers' Gallery in London, UK, Gothenburg in Sweden and with Fetart in Paris and Arles, France. He presently divides his time between Europe and México. In México his work has been exhibited in government institutions and private galleries including Centro Cultural Manuel Gómez Morín Santiago de Querétaro and Fifi Projects, México City.

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## EDUCATION

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| 2007 – 2009 | UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS (UK)<br>MA Photography (DISTINCTION)    |
| 1988 – 1990 | UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM (UK)<br>BA (Hons) History, Politics and English |

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## AWARDS AND SHORTLISTS

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2010 | FRESHFACED AND WILDEYED<br>The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK                           |
| 2009 | THIS IS NOT A GATEWAY<br>Festival, London, UK   |
| 2008 | CIRCULATION{S}<br>Mois de la Photo-OFF Fetart, Paris, France                                |
| 2002 | JOHN KOBAL FOUNDATION PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT AWARDS<br>National Portrait Gallery, London, UK |

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## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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| 2015 | REINVENTING THE WHEEL<br>Museo de la Ciudad, Querétaro, México |
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## GROUP EXHIBITIONS/FESTIVALS

## SELECTED

- 2017  
20 ANIVERSARIO DEL MUSEO DE LA CIUDAD  
*Constituyentes arte de Querétaro en el Centenario de la Constitución de 1917*  
Museo de la Ciudad, Querétaro, México
- 2015  
FETART ET "CIRCULATION{S}"  
Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles, France
- 2013  
PRESAGES  
Fifi Projects, México City, México
- 2012  
BLEMISH  
Fifi Projects, México City, México
- EDGE CONDITION  
Spitalfields Gallery / SAFE Studios, London, UK
- EN TRÁNSITO  
Centro Cultural Manuel Gómez Morín, Querétaro, México
- 2010  
UNTITLED – ST JAMES'S PART II  
Newtone Gallery, St James, London, UK
- FRESHFACED AND WILDEYED  
The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK
- 2009  
THIS IS NOT A GATEWAY  
Festival, London, UK
- DECALOGUE  
The Rag Factory, London, UK
- 2008  
CIRCULATION{S}  
Mois de la Photo-OFF Fetart, Paris, France
- 2006  
MOTHER  
Frolunda Kulturhus Frolunda Torg, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 2005  
HAVANITA  
Number 22, London, UK
- 2004  
MÉNAGE À TROIS  
Waugh Thistleton, London, UK
- 2002  
JOHN KOBAL FOUNDATION PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT AWARDS  
National Portrait Gallery, London, UK
- 2001  
TAKE 4 – A SUMMER EXPOSURE  
Hulton Getty Gallery, London, UK