

## BIOGRAPHY

Ben Elwes' practice uses digital and analogue still photography, HD video and mixed media. Elwes is interested in certain stories and patterns that life produces inspired by his own observations. These situations can develop to be the basis of a new idea that he dedicates himself to for months or even years. Although themes can appear localised or personal, they often involve issues that are collectively shared.

A significant theme that underlies Elwes' work is events that identify and denote change: in a world of flux important moments pass quickly and are soon superseded by others. Elwes' work is concerned with such situations, whether a closing chain store, a political event, a social group or just a transient advertising campaign.

A recurring theme is the consumer environment as a backdrop to our lives, where we are the audience. News, advertising and marketing campaigns are channelled to command our collective attention through the media. Powers we cannot quantify impact and permeate our lives on a daily basis, influencing our psychology, judgement and values, in both the private and public space. This appears to be the price we pay for living in an intense consumer driven environment or our Capitalist society in the 21st Century.

Elwes uses types of consumer related material for his work; cars, retail displays, TV transmissions and discarded polystyrene packaging have all been subject matter for his work.

Elwes' work has been exhibited at national and international venues including the National Portrait Gallery and The Photographers' Gallery in London, Gothenburg in Sweden and with Fetart in Arles and Paris. 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

2007 – 2009

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS (UK)  
MA Photography (DISTINCTION)

1988 – 1990

UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM (UK)  
BA (Hons) History, Politics and English

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## AWARDS AND SHORTLISTS

2010

FRESHFACED AND WILDEYED  
The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

2009

THIS IS NOT A GATEWAY  
Festival, London, UK

2008

CIRCULATION{S}  
Mois de la Photo-OFF Fetart, Paris, France

2002

JOHN KOBAL FOUNDATION PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT AWARDS  
National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

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## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015

REINVENTING THE WHEEL  
Museo de la Ciudad, Querétaro, México

## 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