

## BIOGRAPHY

Ben Elwes' practice uses still image photography and mixed media with an emphasis on publications and exhibitions with some work requiring long periods of time to complete. His work is rooted in a documentary tradition often involving a close engagement with people. He creates concepts and develops ideas from situations he observes and subsequently revisits. Although his work can appear localised to a particular culture, it can involve themes and ideas that are collectively shared.

A theme that recurs in much of his work is the question of free will and how the mass media and consumer environments impinge upon our lives. Increasingly sophisticated technologies are vying to capture our collective attention, intent on influencing our judgement, impacting our psychology and altering our values, whether we are in the public or private space, purchasing or voting. Is this just the price we pay for living in a capitalist society in the 21st century? Source material for the work include: cars, street billboards, retail displays, TV screens and polystyrene packaging.

Elwes is often concerned with events that indicate and denote constancy or change, whether it is a political event, maintaining the traditions of the local market, or the closing of a chain store. In a world of flux, significant moments pass quickly, soon to be superseded by others. He addresses certain situations in order to witness an event, to listen to people's voices and to create a document that will remain appealing 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, FröLunda Kulturhaus in Göthenburg 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

2018

EAST ANGLIAN BOOK AWARDS  
Carrow Road, Norwich, UK

2010

FRESHFACED & WILDEYED  
The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

2009

THIS IS NOT A GATEWAY FESTIVAL  
Hanbury Hall, 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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018
- THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY INSTAGRAM PLATFORM  
Ramillies Street, London, UK
- MONDAY MARKET EXHIBITION  
Sale Day Office, Keys Fine Art Auctioneers, Aylsham, UK
- 2015
- REINVENTING THE WHEEL  
Museo de la Ciudad, Querétaro, México
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GROUP EXHIBITIONS/FESTIVALS/  
COLLECTIONS

*Selected*

- 2018
- ENCHANTED ARTS FESTIVAL  
Chateau de Dampierre-sur-Boutonne, Charente-Maritime, France
- MUCAL  
Museo del Calendario, 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 & WILDEYED  
The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS/FESTIVALS/  
COLLECTIONS

*Selected*

2009

THIS IS NOT A GATEWAY FESTIVAL  
Hanbury Hall, 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

MENAGE A 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