

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 In a world of flux, significant moments pass quickly, soon to be superseded by others.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 Göteborg 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 Morán Santiago de Querétaro and Fifi Projects, México City.

EDUCATION

2007 – 2009

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

1988 – 1990

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

AWARDS AND SHORTLISTS

2020

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS
Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York, USA

2018

EAST ANGLIAN BOOK AWARDS
Carrow Road, Norwich, UK

2010

FRESH FACED & WILD EYED
The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

AWARDS AND SHORTLISTS

- 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
-

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

GROUP EXHIBITIONS/FESTIVALS/
COLLECTIONS

Selected

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

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