

BIOGRAPHY

Ben Elwes' practice uses photography and mixed media with an emphasis on exhibitions, publications and the production of artwork. The work follows a documentary tradition and is motivated by humanistic values. He responds to collective experience often addressing the familiar and mundane. He will revisit locations to develop work, sometimes over an extended period. He creates a visual poetry of vignettes reflecting our time.

His work is predominantly concerned with consumer culture and its coexistence with mass media and advertising, a theme he revisits by default. He is preoccupied with the dominant technologies that compete for our attention daily and by which we are inadvertently conditioned as they impact our psychology and values; whether in the public or private realm, purchasing, voting or just being entertained. Our habits and routines raise the question of free will and he explores how we act within those ever-changing environments. Elwes' work can be seen as satirical as he invites the viewer, through these captured moments, to question the artifice about them.

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