

Exhibition Notes

17 July – 4 October 09

The
Photographers'
Gallery



When You're a Boy: Men's Fashion Styled by Simon Foxtton

These exhibition notes include:

- Things to do and talk about in the gallery
- An activity to do on the way home
- Suggestions for activities and a project following your visit

Please note that due to the nature of the works in *When You're a Boy: Men's Fashion Styled by Simon Foxtton*, these exhibition notes have been written for young people aged 16+



Further information

Further details about the exhibition, photographers and The Photographers' Gallery can be found at www.photonet.org.uk

For more information, please contact:
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T. 020 7087 9347
E. projects@photonet.org.uk

These notes have been researched and written by freelance writer Jo Hall, with advice and support from from photographer and educator Les Monaghan.

Top left: From *Hey There Fancy Pants*, photographed by Jason Evans, styled by Simon Foxtton. Published in *i-D*, May 2004

Top right: From *Galliano's Warriors*, photographed by Nick Knight, styled by Simon Foxtton. Published in *Arena Homme Plus*, Summer/Autumn 2007

General information

Planning your visit



Entrance to The Photographers' Gallery is free of charge. All donations are gratefully received.

16 - 18 Ramillies Street
London W1F 7LW
+44 (0)845 262 1618
info@photonet.org.uk
www.photonet.org.uk

Transport

⊖ Oxford Circus

Opening times

Mon: Closed
Tues, Wed, Sat: 11.00–18.00
Thurs & Fri: 11.00–20.00
Sun: 12.00 - 18.00

Group visits

Groups larger than 10 people are requested to telephone ahead to book their visit. Below are some suggestions for planning your visit:

- Book your visit at least one week in advance.
- Visit early during the exhibition's dates. Popular exhibitions tend to get busier the longer they are on show.
- When arriving to the Gallery, please report to the Information Desk and complete a group visit form.
- Please note that there is currently no space for groups to eat packed lunches in the galleries or café.
- Teachers and youth leaders should check when booking if they have any concerns about sensitive content within the Gallery's exhibitions.
- Visit each Gallery space in groups no larger than 15 pupils. A full class can be split into two groups. Each group should be accompanied by one or more adults at all times.
- A basic risk assessment form is available from projects@photonet.org.uk
- Always check that your visit corresponds to exhibition opening times and dates.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

About

Simon Foxtton

–Simon Foxtton has been a menswear stylist since the early 1980s.

–He has been responsible for creating many new looks in men's fashion and was one of the first people to combine sportswear with fashion items, in fashion photography.

–His photos pose questions about masculinity, national identity and taste.

–He has worked with some of the most famous UK fashion photographers including Jason Evans, Alasdair McLennan and Nick Knight.

–He has worked for a huge range of magazines including *i-D*, *The Face* and *Dazed and Confused*



From *We Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet*, photographed and styled by Simon Foxtton, published in *i-D*, January 1992

In the gallery

The photographs are arranged in series with groupings of photos taken by three main photographers, and a range of work by different photographers on and above the shelf on the back wall. Simon Foxtton's scrapbooks are featured in the case down the centre of the gallery.

Find the three series set out below and think of some words to describe the key mood and features:

- a) *Hey There Fancy Pants* (Jason Evans)
- b) *Hate* (Nick Knight)
- c) *Atlas* (Alasdair McLellan)

The photos in the series *Strictly* were seen as social comment as well as fashion photography at the time they were made (1991). What were Jason Evans and Simon Foxtton suggesting about people, their clothing and their environment with these photographs?

The *Atlas* series was created just after 9-11 (the series of airliner suicide attacks on the United States in 2001). What can you see in the photos that links them with this important event? Should fashion photography show influences from events in real life? Why or why not?

Look at Simon Foxtton's scrapbooks. What different images and other things has he chosen to include? Where might he have found these things?

Look at the display of different photos on and over the shelf on the back wall. Why do you think they have been displayed this way. What does it remind you of?

Find the two photos from the series *English Heritage*. Simon Foxtton and photographer Nick Knight have playfully used famous paintings for these compositions. The original of *Mr and Mrs Andrews* is by Thomas Gainsborough, painted in 1750, is on display in the National Gallery. What are the differences and similarities between the two pictures?



Mr and Mrs Andrews by Thomas Gainsborough, 1750

The photograph next to *Mr and Mrs Andrews* is based on the painting *Two Girls Dressing a Kitten* by Joseph Wright of Derby, 1768. Sketch what you think the original might look like – think about the title of the series, *English Heritage*. Why might the series have this title?

Things to think about

Everyone has a certain style or way of dressing. Where do you buy your clothes and what do you think they say about you? Do you dress like your friends or are you an 'original'? Do you read fashion magazines – if so which ones?

Simon Foxton is credited as being the person who made sportswear popular as everyday wear? Why do you think so many young people wear sportswear/leisure clothes? What does it say about them?

Each year The Photographers' Gallery highlights fashion photography in its summer exhibition. Last year it looked at how some fashion photography reveals a behind-the-scenes look at the world of the fashion shoot; and this year the show concentrates on men, fashion and styling. What do you think should be in the next fashion slot?



From *Strictly*, photographed by Jason Evans, styled by Simon Foxton. Published in *i-D*, July 1991

On the way home

As soon as you get out of the gallery, set up an impromptu fashion shoot in the street.

Work in threes:

the model

to pose in various positions

the stylist

to change an item of the model's clothing (just turning up a collar makes a difference or you could add an instant prop like a bag or newspaper)

the photographer

to compose and take the shot

Or have a browse in RD Franks – a magazine shop that stocks a huge range of fashion and style magazines. At the top of Ramillies Street where it meets Oxford Street turn right and then first left – it's 5 Winsley Street, W1W 8HG, 0207 636 1244. Definitely worth a visit.

Do try this at home

Photo opportunities:

1. Look again at the photograph from the series *Galliano's Warriors* on the front of these Notes. How many people are in the photo? Taking inspiration from a Greek myth or an old story use as many people as possible to create a monster or mythical creature.
2. Take a picture of your friend, then give them a makeover by adjusting their clothes just a little and adding to 'accessorise'. Then get them to pose! How does this shot differ from the first?
3. The *Strictly* series with young black men photographed in the suburban streets of Ealing contrasted the models with their clothing and locations. Think of somewhere that is the opposite of the usual places you go to or live in. Wear clothes that contrast with this location and take a series of photos of your group of friends.

English Heritage II

Using an old painting from a museum or gallery collection (you can access these on line), photoshop photos of you or some friends into the original. Make sure you use exactly the same poses but change your expressions and update any props they are holding to reflect the modern world. Some artists to inspire might be Thomas Gainsborough, Rembrandt, Ingres or Sir Joshua Reynolds. Look at the photos of Tom Hunter, Yinka Shonibare, Jeff Wall and Cindy Sherman on the web for more inspiration.

Evaluation form

We would be grateful if you could comment on our Exhibition Notes so that we can improve our educational resources to suit your needs and interests. Please hand in your completed evaluation form at the Information Desk or post it to us at the address below.

Tick the box next to the appropriate answer.

1. Please comment on how accessible you found the *Exhibition Notes* for yourself.

- Very accessible
- Accessible
- Somewhat accessible
- Accessible

2. Please comment on how accessible you found the *Exhibition Notes* for your children.

- Very accessible
- Accessible
- Somewhat accessible
- Not accessible

4. Were the Exhibition Notes useful to your gallery visit? If so, how were they useful?

- Yes
- No

3. Can you suggest any ways that we could improve these Exhibition Notes?

5. Do you have any specific comments about any aspect of this set of Exhibition Notes?

If you would like to keep informed of further events at The Photographers' Gallery, including our work with schools, family groups and young people, please let us have your contact details:

Name

School or organisation

Email

Postcode
