

JULIE COCKBURN: BALANCING ACT

9 SEPT – 25 OCT 2020

PRESS RELEASE

The Photographers' Gallery Print Sales Gallery presents an exhibition of new works by British artist Julie Cockburn.

Julie Cockburn is renowned for re-imagining and re-configuring found objects and vintage photographs into meticulously constructed and unique contemporary artworks. The new works on display in *Balancing Act*, Cockburn's third solo exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery, are rich in landscape, domesticity, and the human form, altered by Cockburn's playful language of abstraction and intervention.

What at first appear to be almost random, flippant scrawls or slaps of colour, are in fact painstakingly and perfectly stitched and set into the original found photographs using impressively assured composition. Large black and white scenes of epic wilderness are surrounded by smaller, soulful, homespun album photos, and abstract shapes come bouncing into conventional, picturesque landscapes, interrupting the scenic tranquillity. Pastoral idylls are subtly altered by collage and tentatively edged by playful daubs of exquisitely crafted embroidery, and in the new *Skaters'* series, graphic embroidered compositions almost entirely obscure images of skating figures, amplifying the balance between the exuberance and tension of performance.

Cockburn made the majority of work in *Balancing Act* during the recent lockdown. Whilst none of the work overtly refers to Covid-19 it is, says Cockburn, impossible now to look at the work without seeing it through the lens of the pandemic.

Julie Cockburn, said: "Balancing Act is an exhibition of works I made before, during and after Lockdown. I live on my own and work from home, so little overtly changed in the logistics of my day-to-day life. Like everyone, I carefully negotiated my way through the news bulletins and supermarket aisles, cautious not to become overwhelmed with the enormity of the pandemic. While in isolation, I noticed how much we connected by sharing our creativity on social media in an act of showing and being seen – our bread, our gardens, our dances, our cardboard animated projects. This is my show and tell."

The Photographers' Gallery
16–18 Ramillies Street
London W1F 7LW

+44 (0)20 7087 9300
info@tpg.org.uk
thephotographersgallery.org.uk

The Photographers' Gallery is
a registered charity no. 262548
The Photographers' Gallery Limited
is registered in London no. 986208
VAT Registration no. GB645332251

Prints available for acquisition in varying sizes, from £2,100 + vat.

Press Contacts:

For interview requests, press materials and more information please contact:

Harriet Black or Grace Gabriele-Tighe at Margaret PR:

Email: harriet@margaretlondon.com / grace@margaretlondon.com

Notes for Editors:

Julie Cockburn

Julie Cockburn (b. 1966, UK) is renowned for re-imagining and re-configuring found objects and vintage photographs into meticulously constructed and unique contemporary artworks. Having trained as a sculptor at London's Central Saint Martins, Cockburn approaches each work as if working with a three-dimensional form. Her photographic process involves exploring and reacting to nuances such as colour, pose, composition or texture in found archetypal images and transforming them through embroidery, collage and painterly techniques. Rendering the original almost unrecognizable she opens up the work to new possibilities of narrative and interpretation. She has exhibited extensively in the UK, Europe and the United States and her work resides in a number of public collections, including the Yale Center for British Art (USA) and the Wellcome Collection (London, UK).

Print Sales

Print Sales at The Photographers' Gallery is committed to offering expert advice to a new generation of collectors as well as major buyers, corporate collections and public institutions. It strives to provide opportunities for supporting and promoting emerging photographic talent alongside more established names. Print Sales currently represents thirty-five photographers and offers British and international, modern and vintage work for sale. In addition to these Print Sales also offers rare buying opportunities through its scheme of Gallery Editions in which world-renowned photographers and artists donate a limited edition print of their work to help support the Gallery. Each year the Print Sales space stages five selling exhibitions highlighting the works of its represented photographers. All profits from the sale of photographic works at Print Sales goes back to support the public programme of The Photographers' Gallery. To see the full list of represented photographers and works available for purchase please visit

www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**