**GAMES WE PLAY**

*An exhibition organised by The Photographers’ Gallery, London*

**In *Games We Play* three leading photographers seek to deconstruct and demystify idealised images of everyday life and leisure time.**

**Showing typical scenes of family outings, holidays, playtime and scenic views, G*ames We Play* explores how embedded these representations have become in our national consciousness despite not reflecting the lived experience of so many of us.**

**All the selected works further show a fascination with archival images and myth-making. Weronika Gesicka and Julie Cockburn’s use existing photographic archives for their interventions blurring boundaries between truth and fiction; while Luke Stephenson creates his own versions, documenting the ’perfect’ 99 ice-cream as crafted by traditional British seaside ice cream van sellers or presenting British showbirds as a series of characterful portraits.**

**Although the works are laced with humour, wit, and visual conundrums, more complex, multilayered and pressing issues of identity, nationality, memory and history lie just under the surface.**

**Julie Cockburn**(b. 1966, UK) i*s* renowned for re-imagining and re-configuring found vintage photographs into meticulously constructed and unique contemporary artworks often using hand stitching, painting and objects. Rendering the original almost unrecognizable she opens up the work to new possibilities of narrative and interpretation.

**Weronika Gesicka** (b. 1984, Poland) makes projects about memory and its mechanisms. She is interested in the scientific and pseudoscientific theories, mnemonics and various disorders concerning it. Her images are often sourced from archive materials of various sources – image banks, police archives, old press photography or images found on the Internet.

**Luke Stephenson** (b. 1983, UK) is a London-based photographer with Britain and the British psyche at the core of his work. He photographs what to many epitomises the eccentricity of Britain.  By combining his unique style of photography with the formal language of studio portraiture, the artist lends his photographed subjects an affectionate and often human presence.

The Photographers' Gallery (thephotographersgallery.org.uk), a registered charity, was founded in London’s Covent Garden in 1971 as the first public gallery in the UK dedicated to the photographic medium.  From the outset it has been instrumental in promoting photography’s value to the wider world and ensuring its position as one of our most significant artforms.

Consistently pushing the boundaries of form and presentation, The Photographers’ Gallery continues to lead the way in championing photography for the widest possible audiences with the aim to increase public engagement with, and awareness of, this universally relevant and inclusive medium.

For all enquiries with regards to the artists and the works featured in this exhibition, please contact The Photographers’ Gallery (printsales@tpg.org.uk).

The Photographers’ Gallery is located at 16-18 Ramillies St London WIF 7LW close to Oxford Circus tube. It is currently open Tuesday-Saturday from 11-7pm. Please visit [www.tpg.org.uk](http://www.tpg.org.uk)

for more information on our current exhibitions.