

# **JULIE COCKBURN: LAYER OPACITY**

## **7 OCTOBER - 13 NOVEMBER 2016**

21 September 2016

Print Sales presents a new specially commissioned body of work from established British artist, Julie Cockburn (b.1966). Entitled *Layer Opacity* the exhibition focuses on the multifaceted nature of Cockburn's delicate craftsmanship whilst referencing and making use of software algorithms for the categorisation of digital images.

Julie Cockburn is renowned for reimagining and reconfiguring 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. Using embroidery, collage and painterly techniques, she transforms the found prints – adding a layer of bold geometric patterns, stitching or gestural scrawls – rendering the original subject almost unrecognisable. By recontextualising the image, Cockburn opens up the work to new possibilities of narrative and interpretation, provoking dialogue between the contemporary and the historical, gender and identity, the real and the fabricated.

Featuring over thirty portrait and landscape images, *Layer Opacity* introduces a new experimental approach for the artist. Struck by the increasing authority of computer algorithms over the categorisation of digital images, Cockburn set out to explore how her own work would be digested and classified within this system. She fed her prints through an image recognition software and found her work was matched to various photos of objects such as marbles, 3D glasses, a Chinese vase, etc. The objects were then sourced and are now displayed beside her prints in the exhibition space. The pairings evoke a playful sense of humour while also hinting at the continuing cycle of re-appropriation in Cockburn's work.

Julie Cockburn said: *I am using a partial abstraction of the figurative photograph to explore the unseen nuances in the original. I suppose that by delving into the photograph, with inquisitiveness as well as a knife or needle, I am adding to the original, both physically and emotionally. It's like having a conversation, asking and answering questions about character, place, memory and composition. I hope that with my interventions, I am inviting the viewer to do the same thing.*

The Photographers' Gallery  
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Prices from £975 + VAT with prints produced in varying sizes. In addition to the images featured in the exhibition a wide selection of prints by Cockburn are available to view and purchase on request.

## **Notes for Editors**

### **Print Sales' Gallery**

Print Sales has been an integral part of The Photographers' Gallery since its opening in 1971, supporting the public programme through sales of contemporary, modern, vintage, rare and limited edition fine art prints.

Our expert team offers advice and support to all levels of collectors, corporates and public institutions and present a series of unique selling exhibitions to deepen knowledge and engagement with our thirty-seven represented photographers including acclaimed artists Sebastião Salgado, Elliott Erwitt and Jacques Henri Lartigue as well as new talent such as Evgenia Arbugaeva, Julie Cockburn, Luke Stephenson and Tamas Deszo.

We also produce special Gallery Editions, capitalising on our relationships with world-renowned photographers, who donate often previously unavailable works for exclusive sale to support the Gallery.

To see the full list of represented photographers and prints available for purchase please visit [www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk](http://www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk)

### **Visitor Information**

Opening times: Mon - Sat, 10:00 - 18:00, Thu, 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00

Admission: Free

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### **For further press information and to request images please contact:**

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