



PRESS RELEASE

BRIGHTON PHOTO FRINGE ANNOUNCES THE SELECTED ARTIST FOR OPEN 2012

Brighton Photo Fringe is proud to announce Jinkyun Ahn as the selected artist for OPEN 2012. Ahn's solo exhibition will be shown as part of the Fringe Focus at Phoenix Brighton during this year's festival.

Ahn's work - *On the surface of images* – will be shown in full for the first time in the UK during Brighton Photo Fringe which opens on October 6 2012. For this project Ahn, explores the relationship between his parents, and in turn his family's relationship with death and the afterlife. Using photography to reflect, repeat and dismember his parents, the images Ahn presents here often verge on the surreal .

The OPEN 2012 solo show will be exhibited alongside a range of events, talks and group and individual shows.

Ahn commented: *"I am very excited to have this opportunity to present a solo exhibition at Brighton Photo Fringe 2012. It is humbling to be selected and at the same time, challenging."*

Originally from South Korea, having studied in the USA, Ahn completed his MA in Photography at The Royal College of Art in 2012. He has exhibited widely since 2010, with shows in London, the USA, Switzerland and Italy.

Jinkyun Ahn's work was selected by a panel of industry experts from over 100 submissions. The selection panel included Claire Graffik (Head of Exhibitions, The Photographers' Gallery), Susanna Brown (Curator of Photographs, V&A) and Oliver Chanarin (of artists duo Broomberg & Chanarin).

Of the panel's selection, Clare Graffik said: *"Often tinged with a touching but subtle humour, Jinkyun Ahn's work treads a fascinating line between the autobiographical and coolly conceptual. While his subjects are his family, questions of intimacy, mortality and fragility vie for attention alongside a constant reminder about the artifice of the photographic image."*

Brighton Photo Fringe is a festival which is open to all, giving it a strong character, attitude, playfulness and freedom. Participating photographers and lens-based artists self-curate a large number of photographic exhibitions and are not afraid to take risks.

This year's festival launches on Saturday 6th October 2012. Growing year on year since its inception in 2003, this year there will again be exhibitions and events in cafés, community spaces, empty shops and unusual spaces around the city. A full programme of events and exhibitions will be announced in August.

Claire Lloyd, BPF Director said, *“The programme this year takes risks; it examines current themes within contemporary photography and lens-based media shaping original events and exhibitions that inspire audiences to think about photography in new ways. The Fringe is a place to engage with artists and audiences to open up new conversations and provoke new debates.”*

Gordon MacDonald, Chair of the Board of Trustees, *“The Brighton Photo Fringe is a great opportunity for visual artists, at all career stages, to exhibit in a supportive and friendly environment. Truly open participation is key to the organisation’s ethos, but we are always surprised at the large number of artists and photographers wanting to get involved and the extraordinarily high quality of the work on display. It really is a pleasure for me to be involved as Chairperson, as an artist and as one of many thousands of audience members who enjoy the BPF at each event”*

Brighton Photo Fringe is a rare festival that places the practitioner at its heart and embraces all audiences. The festival supports, advises and provides opportunities for lens based artists while providing diverse and accessible exhibitions, events and programming for audiences.

This year also sees the appointment of two festival Artistic Consultants: Harry Hardie and Afshin Dehkordi. Based in the UK, Harry and Afshin will work together to contribute to and deliver a programme of exhibitions and events which will draw upon significant local, national and international developments in all photography and lens-based media.

If you are interested in being part of this year’s Brighton Photo Fringe visit www.photofringe.org for more details of how to participate or contact info@photofringe.org.

Brighton Photo Fringe is a registered charity (no.1148109) supported by National Lottery through Arts Council England, Brighton & Hove City Council and the University of Sussex.

About Brighton Photo Fringe

Founded in 2003, Brighton Photo Fringe (BPF) was initiated to work in partnership with Brighton Photo Biennial (BpB) which began the same year. BPF was first devised as a way for local artists to become involved with the international festival, BpB, but has since has grown into an all-encompassing event which is open to all.

The open ethos of Brighton Photo Fringe is supported through a wholly accessible programme for artists and audiences through a targeted series of projects and events that are integral to the organisation’s structure and programme delivery. In this way, BPF is distinct from any other organisation presently working with photographic and lens based communities in the UK. Participation is key to everything we deliver, whether it is directly targeted at participants, community groups or audiences.

Brighton Photo Biennial is the largest and most exciting curated photography festival in the UK. The fifth edition of the Biennial will be curated & delivered by Photoworks, presenting new commissions and working in partnership with national organisations and partners across the city of Brighton & Hove. Photoworks is the UK’s leading agency for photography. www.photoworks.org.uk

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