

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

Boyd & Evans: Landmarks

Sat 29 January – Sun 3 April 2005

Admission free

Private View: Fri 28 Jan | 17.30-20.00 | All press & media welcome

MK G is delighted to present an exhibition by the British artists Fionnuala Boyd & Les Evans, who, since moving to Milton Keynes in 1982, have worked together to create a remarkable body of painting, drawing and photographic imagery. MK G's exhibition shows a comprehensive series of their new and recent photographs.

Boyd & Evans's images have been influenced by their many journeys through the American landscape, and the latest photographs are inspired by the abundance of natural and man-made wonders encountered on their recent six week research trip to the USA. Some of the new works from MK G's exhibition will subsequently be shown at Flowers Central, 21 Cork Street, London, W1 [Tel: 020 7439 7766] from 7 – 30 April 2005.

The exhibition comprises a selection of works including *Warm Springs*, *Zurich Station*, *Taos*, *Lake Powell*, *Tonopah Playground* and *Bombay Beach*, all examples of Boyd & Evans's "colour in black and white" process. At first glance it appears that a black and white photograph has been colour-tinted to highlight its main subject. In reality the reverse is true, as the artists' practice is to drain all colour from the original image except for the chosen subject. Through this process of reduction they achieve an alien-like intensification of the subject's natural colour. In *Tonopah Playground* the moulded plastic climbing frame found in a garden in the Nevada town of Tonopah retains its colour, whilst the surrounding mining town is shown in black and white.

In a new departure Boyd & Evans present *Crossing*, two panoramic photographs mounted on curved three-dimensional supports creating a 360° surround. Measuring over 10 feet in diameter, the scale of the image envelops the viewer and their entire field of vision, transforming a two-dimensional image into a physical experience.

A further series of five large-format panoramic photographs, includes the striking *Potash Blue*, a view of an evaporating man-made, salt lake, in dramatic surroundings near Canyonlands National Park, Southern Utah, USA. In 1979, Boyd & Evans made a piece called *Roundup*, which comprised 27 photographic collages featuring images from their first trip the USA in 1977-78. This will be displayed on MK G's first floor. A contemporary version of this piece, *Anecdote*, measuring approximately twelve metres long will be shown in the Long Gallery.

A fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Ben Tufnell and Christopher Finch will accompany the exhibition. Price £15 at the exhibition. Friends of MK G price, £12.

Artists' Limited Edition Poster

Boyd & Evans have prepared an exclusive, **free, limited edition poster** of *The Oak Tree*, a landmark tree in Midsummer Place shopping centre in central Milton Keynes. It will be available to the first 1,000 visitors to pick up at the exhibition.

Limited Edition Print

A second print, *Salt Pool*, in a limited edition of 100 will be available for sale from the Gallery Shop and via the gallery's website. Price £120 unframed + postage & packing.

Related Events

There are opportunities to hear the artists and guest speakers discuss their work in the following **informal talks and tours**:

- Sat 29 Jan at 12.00 | A city-centre walking tour of the artists' work with Boyd & Evans (c.1hr)
- Sat 19 Feb at 12.00 | A short gallery talk by John Best, Chief Executive, Milton Keynes Council
- Wed 23 Feb at 19.30 | Boyd & Evans discuss their work with Tate Britain curator, Ben Tufnell
- Sat 5 Mar at 12.00 | A short gallery talk by Nick Heffernan, Head of Department and Senior Lecturer in American Studies, University College Northampton.

Saturday talks are free and no booking required. The Wednesday evening talk is a ticketed event. Price £5 (£3 concs.) to include a glass of wine. For full details and bookings or information about activities for children linked to the exhibition please ring 01908 676 900 or visit the website at www.mk-g.org.

Notes for Editors

- Boyd & Evans have been residents of Milton Keynes for over 22 years, and have shown widely both nationally and internationally. There are a number of large-scale, specially commissioned works around the city, in private and public collections, including the Woughton Centre, the Central Library, The Open University, MK Council offices and MK Hospital. The artists will be conducting a free tour of some these works on Saturday 29 January.
- Boyd & Evans are represented by Flowers East Gallery, London and more information on their artistic practice can be found at www.flowerseast.com
- Boyd & Evans have been supported by Arts Council England South East, Grants for the Arts.
- MK G is an independent, public art gallery, presenting 6-8 free exhibitions of contemporary art a year, currently celebrating its 5th anniversary.
- Milton Keynes Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA. Tel: 01908 676 900. Website - www.mk-g.org. Admission free.
- Open Tues-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 11.00-17.00. Closed Mondays and for exhibition changeovers. Easter Closing: 25, 27 & 28 March 2005.

Further information, images & interviews

Order a selection of jpegs by emailing l.gemmell@mk-g.org. For interview requests please contact Lorna Gemmell or Katharine Sorensen at MK G on 01908 558 302.

Ends

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