

## News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

# Paul Seawright: Hidden & Our True Intent Is All For Your Delight: The John Hinde Butlin's Photographs

26 July – 31 Aug 2003

Admission free

Private view Fri 25 July 17.30 – 20.00

All press and media welcome

Milton Keynes Gallery's summer exhibitions take the visitor from one extreme of contemporary photography to another. Paul Seawright's documentation of Afghanistan after the conflict of 2001 concentrates on its heavily mined, desert landscapes while the John Hinde Butlin's photographs of holiday camps are saturated with bright colour. MK G has deliberately programmed these shows alongside each other to demonstrate the great variety of subjects and styles which contemporary photography can embrace, and will continue its photography season into the autumn with new work by Juergen Teller. There is an opportunity to find out more about photography as an art form at an informal illustrated talk at MK G on 13 August, given by Mark Haworth-Booth (details overleaf).

Paul Seawright is Head of the Centre for Photographic Research at University of Wales College, Newport and is one of the artists currently representing Wales at this year's Venice Biennale exhibition. Last year he was commissioned by the Art Commissions Committee of the Imperial War Museum to respond to the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the war in Afghanistan.

His photographs of the Afghan desert attempt to capture the hidden menace of its mined landscape. On the face of it, the desert appears bleak, empty and sun-bleached; below the surface, however, it teems with lethal explosives. This conflict between the seen and the unseen is Seawright's main preoccupation in *Hidden*. The resulting images are powerfully evocative of the terrible calm which follows an explosion of violence. Their bleak grandeur speaks eloquently and movingly about war and its aftermath.

*Hidden* has been organised by the Imperial War Museum, ffotogallery and the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. The exhibition tour has been organised in collaboration with ffotogallery, Irish Museum of Modern Art and Oriel Mostyn Gallery.

John Hinde was a pioneer of colour postcard production in the late 1950s and 60s. His series of photographs of Butlin's, which were originally made for sale in the holiday camps, capture the atmosphere of a classic British institution. At the time, the bright, saturated colours and carefully staged scenarios were totally new and brought in high numbers of sales. Hinde's business had in fact expanded to such an extent by this point that he employed three young photographers to take the Butlin's photos in his postcard style. The photos cover all aspects of the nine Butlin's camps, from the tea dances to the swimming pools, the Pig and Whistle to the Beachcomber Bar. Painstakingly produced using large format cameras and multiple lighting sources, many taking a full day to produce, the photographs offer a fantasy of life in the camps. Yet at the same time they prove a remarkable social record of the period, described by Martin Parr as "some of the strongest images of Britain in the 1960s and 1970s". Loud, brash and wonderfully nostalgic! The exhibition is curated by Martin Parr and produced by Chris Boot.

### Related Events

Sat 26 July | 11.00-11.30 | No need to book  
**Free Family Exhibition Tour** | Join a short, informal introduction to the Butlin's and Seawright exhibitions before starting Saturday Art Trolley activities.

Sat 26 July, 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 August | 11.00-13.00 | Free | No need to book\*  
**The Saturday Art Trolley** | Art activities for ages 4-12 based on the current exhibitions.  
\*Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wed 30 July | 13.30-14.00 | No need to book  
**Free Exhibition Tour** Join a member of MK G staff for an 'Art for All' informal tour of the Butlin's and Seawright exhibitions.

Wed 13 Aug | 19.30 | Tickets £5 (£3 concs) to include a glass of wine  
**In Conversation with Mark Haworth-Booth: Photographic Creativity** | Don't miss this opportunity to find out more about photography as an art form. Mark Haworth-Booth, author, professor of photography and curator of photographic exhibitions at the Victoria & Albert Museum, will give this informal, illustrated talk about looking at photographs and enjoying many kinds of photographic creativity. Doors open at 19.00 for pre-talk viewing.

**Listings Information** | *Paul Seawright: Hidden & Our True Intent Is All For Your Delight: The John Hinde Butlin's Photographs* [26 July – 31 Aug 2003] at Milton Keynes Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA. Tel: 01908 676 900. Admission Free. Open Tues-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 11.00-17.00. Closed Mondays and for exhibition changeovers. Visit [www.mk-g.org](http://www.mk-g.org) for up to the minute information.

**Press information and images** | Contact Katharine Sorensen or Lorna Gemmell on 01908 558 302 or email [k.sorensen@mk-g.org](mailto:k.sorensen@mk-g.org)

Ends | Date of Issue: 03.07.03