

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

Three photographic shows opening at MK G
9 December – 21 January 2001

- **Richard Ross: Gathering Light**
A John Hansard Gallery Touring Exhibition
- **Jan Dibbets: Ten Cupolas**
- **John Riddy: Recent Work**

Admission free

Press View: Fri 8 December 16.00 – 18.00
Including a tour by Director Stephen Snoddy at 17.00

Milton Keynes Gallery presents three photographic exhibitions at the beginning of December, one in each of its distinctive gallery spaces. Although separate, the exhibitions bring together strong elements of perspective, light and architecture.

Richard Ross (b.1947) has assembled a collection of large format colour photographs over a number of years, while travelling on assignments for magazines. In capturing these remarkable locations on film, the American photographer demonstrates an expert understanding of the camera, which makes tangible the very essence of the visual. **Gathering Light** includes carefully staged scenes of interiors with a backdrop of various faiths and cultures. Tombs, churches and temples provide an atmospheric ground for his studies, portraying the situation as if it were a stage set. The lighting found within these situations becomes the focus of the work as the luminosity emerging in these images comes from the coincidence of light and dark. MK G presents fourteen photographs selected from this touring exhibition, which was initiated by the John Hansard Gallery, Southampton.

Jan Dibbets (b.1941) presents ten images of cupolas, all upward interior views of domes taken over a period of thirteen years, beginning in 1983 with his photograph of the Four Courts in Dublin and ending with his 1995 view of the observatory in Paris. They are united not only by a common theme but also a philosophy in which the artist questions our perception of light and distance as well as presenting us with images of great subtlety.

John Riddy (b.1959 in Northampton) presents images which place architecture and inhabited space within the photograph as a sequence of echoes and reflections. Though appearing nostalgic, the photographs have a sense of clarity, which makes formal the complexity of perspective and texture. His understanding of the relationship between

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place and image is exhibited in his particular use of framing within the camera lens, increasing the severity of the subject by playing on the perspective of surfaces, gravity, balance and light. Not simply documents of places, they also explore the poetic and continuing possibility of private reflection. For this exhibition MK G has selected ten recent works, which include views of Rome, Valencia, Whipsnade and London. To contrast with the Ross and Dibbets exhibitions, which comprise interior views, the selected works by Riddy are all exterior subjects.

Exhibitions open

Tues – Sat 10.00 – 17.00 Sun 12.00 – 17.00 Closed Mondays
Christmas & New Year Closing: Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec & 1 Jan 2001.

Publications

Gathering Light: Richard Ross

Texts by Dave Hickey and Eduardo Cadava. Over 80 colour plates. Published by John Hansard Gallery, Southampton. Hardback £30. Special price at the exhibition £25.

John Riddy

48 pages, 25 b&w plates. Published by Camden Arts Centre. Softback £20. Special price at the exhibition £14.

Free Guided Tours: *Art For All*

Sundays at 14.30 and Wednesdays at 13.15

Gallery staff and others offer an informed and informal tour of the exhibitions. Tours last c. 20-30 mins. No need for individuals to pre-book. Tours can also be arranged for groups of 10 or more for small charge. Bookings on 01908 558 305.

Saturday Art Trolley

Saturdays between 11.00 and 13.00

Using the resources of the Art Trolley, children can explore the exhibition and have a go at a variety of free art activities in the exhibition spaces. For families only, no groups. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Photography Workshop

Thursday 4 Jan 2001 10.00-15.00

Young people ages 11-15 are invited to join this workshop run by artist and MK G Gallery Assistant, Antony Carr. Complementing the three photographic exhibitions, it is ideal for those wishing to experiment within the medium. Price £10. Pre-booking essential. Bookings on 01908 558 305.

Press Information

For further information/images please contact Katherine Sorensen or Anna Gawronska:

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