

The Urban Condition
Lewisham Art House
9th - 15th November
Opening times: 12:00 to 18:00
Private View: Monday 13 November 18:00 - 20:00

An international group of eleven visual urbanists will form an exhibition at Lewisham Art House that will be one of the feature exhibitions of UrbanPhotoFest 2017, an international urban photography festival exploring contemporary visual practices focusing on urban life. For the second year, Urban Photo Village will be a key feature of the broader programme of the Festival. Ten exhibitions - hosted by venues all located within walking distance of each other in Deptford - will be asked to reflect this year's festival theme of Cartographies.

This group of photographers have backgrounds ranging from fine art and commercial photography, to photojournalism and architecture; their work addresses a wide variety of issues. The group span diverse cultural backgrounds; they are united by globalisation, a dominant Western point of view that plays a part in dictating perspective, and a common connection to South East London. Their personal cultural and geographical histories mean they are uniquely located within a modern landscape, producing bodies of work that explore, question and celebrate what can be united under the label of the urban.

Exhibitors explore the different spaces that constitute urban place; spaces specific in the way they serve communities, public spaces incidental and yet vital to everyday lives, and areas located in distant landscapes that are often overlooked in discussions about the urban. They also look at the different constructed identities that are contained and produced by cities.

What constitutes urban place and space? Conceptions about urban land are determined in some measure by cultural backgrounds, and the paths we make and take through the world. The spaces and places that constitute the urban landscape are both concrete and social, embodied by human practices, through which identities are formed and fused to the built environment. This exhibition surveys how different human needs and desires are served by the urban landscape, exploring how we divide up and classify spaces, using these systems of categorisation to relate to the unknown in the same terms.

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