

## PRESS RELEASE

**JUERGEN TELLER: GO-SEES, BUBENREUTH KIDS AND A FAIRYTALE ABOUT A KING...  
24 NOVEMBER 2017 - 13 JANUARY 2018  
OPENING: THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 6 - 8PM**

Alison Jacques Gallery is pleased to present its first solo exhibition of photographs by German artist Juergen Teller (b.1964, Erlangen). This exhibition comprises selections from three bodies of work – the artist's iconic series *Go-Sees*; *Enjoy Your Life! Junior*, a recent collaboration with Bubenreuth Primary School in the artist's hometown; and a 'visual essay' depicting a modern fairy tale about a boy who became a king.

The *Go-Sees* is a seminal work from Teller's early career. Produced over the course of one year from May 1998, and shot from the threshold to Teller's West London studio, the title of this series documents an industry term for a photographer's first meeting with a new model. Unlike a casting, the 'Go-See' is a model's testing ground; an open-ended encounter between the photographer and model, without the prospect of a definite commission. Like casting appointments, these events determine the potential career success for the model. Teller's series obliquely interrogates the fashion industry with which he is involved.

*'The models in Go-Sees become much more than bearers of externally directed aesthetic values. While the photographic gaze is shaped by and reciprocally shapes the convention of the go-see, Teller suggests that even within these parameters it is possible to find new ways of seeing.'* Shannan Peckham, *Juergen Teller Go-Sees*, published by Scalo, 1999.

Framed by the doorway of Teller's studio, the *Go-Sees* are depicted in many guises: shy, confident, hopeful, disengaged, energetic, relaxed, and in casual clothing. Transgressing fine art and fashion photography, the portraits, as with all of Teller's other work, are never retouched. Teller's snapshot style and spontaneous and unusual angles defer from the polished visual protocols so closely associated with the luxury world.

Shown concurrently in the smaller exhibition room, *Enjoy Your Life! Junior* is the result of a school-led outing by 6 and 7-year-old students of Bubenreuth Primary to see Teller's exhibition *Juergen Teller* at Kunstpalais in Erlangen (2017). An unusual exhibition to take primary school students to, the children were surprised and inspired by the honesty in Teller's work. Reversing the situation of *Go-Sees*, Teller responded to the students' enthusiasm with a spontaneous visit to the school during which he encouraged them to take photographs of each other and the artist himself. Subverting the conventional relationship of the artist and model, the children playfully re-enact some of Teller's most iconic images.

*'At times it's only small details that link the original to the children's vision, but then those details are exactly what the children liked most about the photo...'* Christina Busch (Teacher, Grundschule Bubenreuth, Erlangen), 'Juergen Teller Means Dirty Walls', *POP Magazine*, Summer 2017.

Teller's display of the Bubenreuth Primary kids' photographs invites viewers to play a role in recollection, as one body of work develops from another and remind us of Teller's humour, self-mockery and emotional honesty.

This exhibition explores the development of Teller's work over the last two decades and its ability to change the perception of stereotypical ideals of beauty and aesthetics within present-time. The exhibition culminates in the upstairs gallery where a new body of work, shown for the first time, creates a visual narrative of a modern fairy tale; a portrait of a man born in London, a boy who became a king.

Juergen Teller lives and works in London, England. Major solo presentations include the forthcoming *Enjoy Your Life!*, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, (travelled from Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, 2016, Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, 2016 and Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, 2017); *Woo!* at the Institute of Contemporary Art, London, 2013; *Texte und Bilder* at the Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu, 2011 (travelled from the Moscow House of Photography, Russia); *Touch Me*, Le Consortium, Dijon, 2010 (travelled to Daelim Contemporary Art Museum, Seoul, 2011); *Do You Know What I Mean*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, 2005. Teller is currently in a group exhibition at the Venice Biennale with Boris Mikhailov, *Parliament*, in the Ukrainian Pavilion, Venice. In 2007 Teller represented Ukraine amongst five artists at the 52nd Venice Biennale and in 2003 was awarded the Citybank prize for his exhibition at The Photographers Gallery, London that same year.

Teller's work has been acquired by major museums worldwide including: Centre Pompidou, Paris; Daelim Contemporary Art Museum, Seoul; Fotomuseum München, Munich; Fondation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain, Paris; International Centre of Photography, New York; Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt; National Portrait Gallery, London; Pinchuk Arts Centre, Kiev and Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT FIONA MCGOVERN  
TEL: +44 (0) 20 7631 4720 or EMAIL: [info@alisonjacquesgallery.com](mailto:info@alisonjacquesgallery.com)**

**FORTHCOMING: ROY OXLADE, 19 JANUARY - 10 MARCH 2018**