

# DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Press release

## **Dick Jewell *Pause, Poise, Pose***

4 April – 18 May 2019

Departure Lounge, Bute Street, Luton, LU1 2EY

(Closed Easter weekend 18-20 April 2019)

**Launch Reception and talk: Thursday 11 April 6-8pm.**

**Dick Jewell will be in conversation with Departure Lounge Director Matthew Shaul at 6pm**

**Free, all welcome**

Established British artist Dick Jewell presents a new installation in Luton from 4 April, bringing together his wide-ranging interests in photographic portraiture.

Jewell is a photographer, print-maker and film-maker but also a collector and archivist of images. Fascinated by the ubiquitous, but actually quite poorly understood, medium of portraiture, Jewell trawls the internet to create an individual visual language in which dissonant images and unexpected combinations challenge our assumptions.

In *Pause, Poise, Pose* Jewell presents a series of large-scale photomontages which explore the underlying continuities and similarities between contemporary smart-phone photography and the poses and status concepts of classical portraiture and classical mythology. As evidenced in *Memetic Desire* (2016) – an amalgam of hundreds of poses adopted by Calvin Klein models in advertising campaigns, and in selfies made at home and in department store changing rooms – ‘the pose’, adopted in contemporary portraiture and “selfie” photography is a tradition which goes back as far as Greek mythology.

Historically portraiture has always placed the sitter, their clothing, jewellery and other status symbols centre-stage. *Pause, Poise, Pose* offers a veritable smorgasbord of images which ask searching questions about idolatry, race, gender, the iconography of class and status and about humanity’s intrinsic narcissism. Ultimately Jewell’s conjectures on portraiture are about identity, who we are and perhaps who we aspire to be.

Dick Jewell graduated from the Royal College of Art (Printmaking MA) in 1978. Trained using traditional analogue photographic media, Jewell’s career as an artist has developed over the last 40 years in lockstep with the digital innovations that have revolutionised and democratised photography and portraiture, fundamentally changing the ‘craft’ of photography and our attitudes to its permanence and disposability. His studio practice is diverse and utilizes film, video and photography. He has published three books and his numerous films have screened extensively at film festivals and in art galleries. His work is also in the collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, The Open University, the Stedelijk Museum, the Froebel Institute, the Hayward Gallery, Leeds City Art Gallery and Arts Council England. He teaches at the Royal College of Art.

*Pause, Poise, Pose* is organised by Departure Lounge in collaboration with Luton Culture

### **Visitor information**



The Storefront, 64 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY  
Open Thursday – Saturday 1pm– 6pm, and by appointment  
Admission free  
Telephone 01582 878100

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**PRESS ENQUIRIES:**

For further information and images please contact Hazel Foxon email [hazel@foxon.org](mailto:hazel@foxon.org)  
or tel 07801 234930 (not for publication)

**Notes to Editors**

**Biography**

**Dick** do you want to include further biography or exhibition dates etc here?

**Departure Lounge**

**Matthew** would you like to write a few lines about Departure Lounge here? Previous notes to editors have been about As You Change so need something fresh [www.departure-lounge.org.uk](http://www.departure-lounge.org.uk)

**Luton Culture** is an arts and cultural charity providing exceptional and meaningful engagement with museums, arts centres, libraries and public art for the people of Luton and beyond. Luton Culture aims to deliver exemplary public engagement with arts and culture through its locally relevant and nationally important arts and cultural programmes, whilst actively nurturing creativity and artistic talent. <http://www.lutonculture.com/>