

catherine jacobs | artist

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Statement and Curriculum Vitae

Catherine Jacobs is a London based artist whose photographic work has been shown both nationally and in the USA and is held in many private collections.

Catherine's imaginary terrains invite viewers to participate in a game of associations of physical sensations and interior states. Created especially for the camera, the work is made from small-scale, temporary installations with no digital manipulation employed.

The work reflects the insights gained through Catherine's established career in psychological research, giving her a unique perspective into the themes she explores. Her particular areas of interest are in attachment theory and the ways people relate to each other and their surroundings.

Residencies

- 2006 **Viewfinder**, Artist-in-Residence for *Barking, Havering & Redbridge NHS Trust* (Innovative Landscape Photography project with patients & staff of a Cancer Ward)
- 2002-3 **Ft3 Annual Studio Programme**, *the Florence Trust*, London.

Exhibitions

Solo

- 2005 **Uncertainties**, *Queen Elizabeth Hospital's Cancer Centre*, Birmingham.
Uncertainties, *MAC*, (Public Arts Centre) Birmingham
- 2002 **Uncertainties**, *Headquarters ARC Marketing*, London, W6.
- 1999 **Intimacy**, *FOOD 99, Herefordshire Photography Festival*, Hereford.

Group

- 2006 **Picture This, War Child Charity Auction**, Cobalt Fine Art, Oxo Tower & Bargehouse, London. Other artists include Sam Taylor-Wood and Damien Hirst.
- 2005 **Seascapes**, *Harris Interiors Contemporary Art*, Poole.
- 2004 **New Photographers**, *Sarah Myerscough Fine Art*, London.
Still, *Corridor Gallery*, London.
Miniatures, *Sarah Myerscough Fine Art*, London.
- 2003 **Summer Show**, *The Florence Trust*, curated by Cherry Smyth.
- 2002 **Opening Show**, *Harris Interiors Contemporary Art*, Dorset.
Work in Progress, *The Florence Trust*, St Saviour's, London.
Zone-IV, *Photo L.A. 11th Los Angeles Photographic Print Exhibition*, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, Los Angeles, California, USA.
- 2001 **Flava**, *Leeds Food & Drink Festival, Artco Contemporary Art*,
Coast, *Artsway*, Sway, Hampshire.
Professional Innovations in Photography,
Blackfriars Arts Centre, Lincs.
- 2000 **Organics**, *Manuela Hofer Photographic Gallery*, London.
- 1997 **Stoke Newington Festival Open**, *Library Gallery*, London.
Continuing Studies Group Show, *Chelsea School of Art*, London.

Artist Led

- 2004 **State of Independence**, *Vision in Art*, London.
Re-union, with Florence Trust residency artists, *APT Gallery*, London.
- 2003 **Common Fields**, *Studio Voltaire*, London.
- 2002 **Inside: out**, collaborative show, with artist Annabel Kapp, *Gallery@Wrenn*, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.
Fore Photographers, *Shepherd's Market Gallery*, London.
- 2001 **Sense & Sensuality**, touring with *gallery.net>2000-2001*
Madeley Court Gallery, Telford & Wrekin, *Albrighton Regeneration Arts Project*, Telford & Wrekin, *Ludlow Assembly Rooms*, South Shropshire, *Belmont Arts Centre*, Shrewsbury, *Spout Farm Gallery*, Telford.
- 1999 **Sense & Sensuality**, *Lewisham Art House Gallery*, London.
- 1997 **Detention, Suspension, Expulsion**, *222 Arts Project*, London.

Publications

2003 **Catalogue Florence Trust Summer Show 2003**,
Cherry Smyth, www.florencetrust.org

Residencies

2002-3 **Ft3 Annual Studio Programme**, *The Florence Trust*

Talks & Workshops

2003 **APD@Fresh Art - Breakfast Talks Programme** presentation on Florence Trust
Residency to Fresh Art Exhibitors

2001 **Imaginary Landscapes**, workshops for 10-14 years olds commissioned by
gallery.net>2000-1, Albrighton Regeneration Arts Project, Shropshire.

Art Fairs

2004 **Affordable Art Fair**, *Sarah Myerscough Fine Art*, London.

London Art Fair, *Sarah Myerscough Fine Art*, London.

2003 **Fresh Art**, *Florence Trust Studio Group*, Business Design Centre, London.

Glasgow Art Fair, *Artco Contemporary Art*, Glasgow.

Affordable Art Fair, *Artco Contemporary Art*, London

2002 **Under £500 Art Fair**, *Tangible Art*, Portland Place, London.

1999-2001 **Battersea Contemporary Art Fair**, *Battersea Arts Centre*, London.

Education

2003 **Professional Strategies for Visual Artists & Curators**,
City University, London.

1996-8 **BTEC Continuing Studies in New Art**, *Chelsea School of Art*, London.

BTEC National Certificate in Art & Design (photography)

City of Westminster College, London.

City and Guilds Art of Colour Photography (distinction) & Starting Photography (distinction) *University of Westminster*, London.

1988-1991 **BA [Hons] Psychology 2(I)**, *University of Newcastle upon Tyne*.

Involvements

Vision in Art, Artists networking group, London.

AXIS Visual Arts Exchange, Leeds Metropolitan University, www.axisartists.org.uk

IRIS: The Women's Photography Project, Staffordshire University,
www.staffs.ac.uk/ariadne.

Senior Researcher (Part time) Employment Summary

Catherine's photographic subject matter is informed by her psychological research interests/ health research work. Currently working for the Lifespan Research Group (www.rhul.ac.uk) she's undertaken extensive interviewing and measure development regarding psychosocial factors in intergenerational transmission of risk from mother to offspring. Particular research interests are applying measurement of psychosocial risk to social work practice, attachment theory and psychological abuse.

She project manage service evaluations in health and social care issues on disorder in teenagers and adoption/fostering and is actively involved in the WestFocus Health Network- a consortium of seven London Universities working together on collaborative projects (www.westfocus.org) and co-leads the Active Seniors' group, presenting paper on well-being at the 2005 British Society of Gerontology conference.

Catherine has researched the role of environmental factors in externalizing disorder in twins' series and the impact of life events on depressed in-patients at the Maudsley Hospital. (1995-1999). She also worked as a Development Officer for older people with dementia, facilitating carer training programmes at Hillingdon Hospital (1994-5) and with newly diagnosed dementia patients at St George's Hospital Medical School (1991-4).

catherine jacobs at mac



Catherine Jacobs held an interactive exhibition of 16 photographic prints entitled '*Uncertainties*' at the Theatre Foyer Gallery, Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham in September and October 2005. In its six week run, the exhibition was visited by around 10,000 people. Each work was presented mounted on aluminium, with a section of string placed below it allowing people to record and share their individual responses to the photographs on luggage labels.

Photographs in the *Uncertainties* series are taken without using digital processes, being constructed from small installations that Catherine Jacobs creates in the studio from everyday materials such as body creams and lotions. These fluid environments exist only temporarily; created just for the camera. **Alex Boyd, exhibition curator at mac**, writes in the *Uncertainties* display poster, "Aesthetically, there is a play on scale where a tension prevails between the macro and the micro essence of the work. It is this push and pull between the everyday and the ethereal that tugs at our consciousness". The artist, who has a background working in psychology, describes the work as 'Constructing psychological terrains which recall in viewers physical sensations and interior states'.



The series is titled '*Uncertainties*' to encourage people to examine their responses to the photographic prints, with viewers told the actual origins of the work clearly in the exhibition documentation. "How do these photographs make us feel? Do they remind us of a particular time or place? Have we been here before? These are only some of the questions we might ask or find ourselves thinking about. Individual pieces may provide an immediate response, while others make take longer to penetrate our minds. Whatever our understanding and the diversity of our interpretation, Catherine Jacobs is interested to know what we think. She celebrates the way art can provide opportunities for multiple readings and meanings according to our individual backgrounds and experiences." (Alex Boyd)

Shared responses

Nearly 1000 people shared their responses to the work with each other during the show with comments ranging from the descriptive, to the emotional, to the poetic, the imagined and the remembered. The following paragraph lists a few of these:- "Like looking at a diamond up close and seeing reflections of light", "A mouth with a tongue coming out", "A strip of scar tissue", "The landscape outside Stockholm", "The Loch Ness monster", "A scene from a World War 1 battlefield", "A view from an aeroplane window", "Dark and sad", "A Storm without Place" and "I feel I'm in a dark cave and I'm scared". Following the success of *Uncertainties* at mac Catherine Jacobs is currently considering possibilities of touring the show to other UK venues. Further information on her work and current involvements can be found at www.catherinejacobs.co.uk.



catherine jacobs at the Florence Trust Studio Residency, 2002-2003

Select 12 of the freshest contemporary artists and offer them studio spaces in a Grade One listed Victorian Gothic church ... The Florence Trust studios are unique in their commitment to the production and promotion of new work in a stunning and collaborative environment.

(Publicity leaflet, 2001).

Catherine Jacobs was one of 12 artists awarded a place on the prestigious Florence Trust annual studio residency programme in 2002. During this successful year Catherine produced a new body of photographic work, participated in talks for business communities and represented the Trust in a solo show at the headquarters of ARC Marketing.



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The residency culminated in a Summer Exhibition, where her work was sponsored by John Jones and exhibited in their stunning box frames.



ARC Marketing, Catherine Jacobs solo exhibition, 2003. Two installation shots from the show at ARC Marketing Headquarters London, W6 are shown below.



Fresh Art, 2003

Business Design Centre,

Florence Trust artists also held a stand at *Fresh Art*, Business Design Centre, London where Catherine was selected by Artists Newsletter to give a talk on the Florence Trust Residency, with Director

Rod McIntosh, for their Artist Professional Development (APD) Breakfast Talks Programme.

2003 Florence Trust Summer Exhibition, curated by Cherry Smith

Catherine Jacobs invents a photographic language for interior psychological states with a cool slickness that inches towards stickiness (Summer Exhibition Press Release, Rod McIntosh, Director, Florence Trust, 2003). For the Summer Exhibition, Catherine showed eleven new works from **Uncertainties**, an ongoing series based on current psychological debates in attachment theory. Recalling physical sensations and interior states in the viewer, the works were exhibited as large scale, C-Type photographic prints.



"If you could photograph the feeling before a tear it would look like this. A welling up. A prickliness, Composure slipping over an edge. A nerve getting irritated, sand in a mussel before the pearl. Jacobs' powerful images resonate with a double-edged and subtle seduction below the eye, the heart, the muscle and sinew, just as pleasure itself brings fear of pleasure and fear of letting go."

(Cherry Smith, curator, Florence Trust Catalogue, 2003).

Further information on the Florence Trust can be found at www.florencetrust.org