

OPEN EYE GALLERY

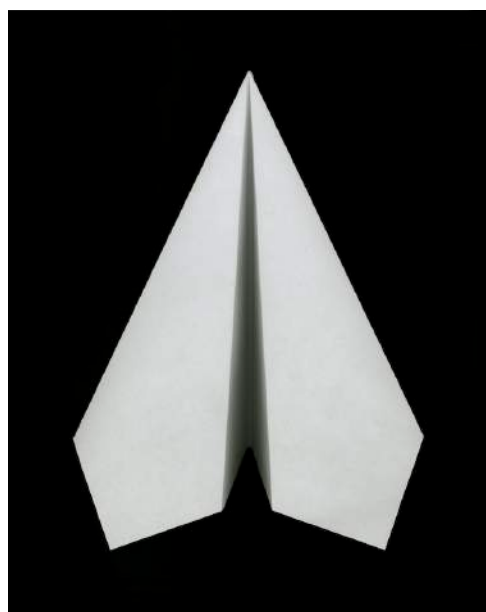
Open Eye Gallery
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Edgar Martins, *Farewell Letter* from the series *Siloquies and Soliloquies on death, life and other interludes*, 2016
Jordan Baseman, *Deadness*, 2013. Still courtesy the artist and Matt's Gallery, London.

15 JANUARY – 3 APRIL 2015

FLAT DEATH:

EDGAR MARTINS & JORDAN BASEMAN

Press View: Thursday 14 January, 12-4pm

Through photographic projects by Edgar Martins and Jordan Baseman, this exhibition presents two series of work that invite us to reflect on how we deal with death, as a society and individually.

Edgar Martins attempts to understand our relationship to death and photography's role in this process through a variety of images. Jordan Baseman's exhibition of memorial images sits within a long tradition of photography being used by families to remember their loved ones after they have passed.

In shaping the exhibition we have been in consultation with leading individuals & mental health organisations to ensure an open dialogue. Throughout the exhibition, we will be holding events considering the ethical responsibilities and systems of public beliefs around the work presented and sharing the findings.

The exhibition's title, *Flat Death*, is taken from Roland Barthes' *Camera Lucida*, which considers the photograph as a fixed record of a moment in time.

EDGAR MARTINS:

Edgar Martins presents a selection of images from his project titled, *Siloquies and Soliloquies on death, life and other interludes*. Martins has worked closely with the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Science in Portugal to create the work, which includes challenging images relating to death. Presented are photographs of forensic evidence, archival material and Martins' own reflections. Whilst upholding respect for the deceased and the bereaved, Martins raises the importance of discussing *why* our depiction and understanding of death creates tensions when talked/spoken about in open society/public.

JORDAN BASEMAN:

Jordan Baseman presents one part of his 2013 exhibition, *Deadness*. Projected 35mm slides collected by the artist show images taken by families of recently deceased loved ones, or their funerals. The project explores the historical, cultural and sociological relationship between photographic portraiture and embalming. The embalmer's attention focuses on preparation for the moment relatives and loved ones view the deceased, to leave the bereaved with a peaceful image and memory of the deceased. Interviews and discussion are central to Baseman's creative process, this work focuses on the experiences of Dr John Troyer - Deputy Director for the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath.

ABOUT OPEN EYE GALLERY:

We believe photography is for everyone and can be meaningful, informing our present and inspiring positive futures. Open Eye Gallery works with people to explore photography's unique ability to connect, to tell stories, to inquire, to reflect on humanity's past and present, and to celebrate its diversity and creativity.

Founded in 1977 Open Eye Gallery is an independent not-for-profit photography gallery based in Liverpool. One of the UK's leading photography spaces, Open Eye Gallery is the only gallery dedicated to photography and related media in the North West of England. Open Eye Gallery has consistently championed photography as an art form that is relevant to everyone. It promotes the practice, enjoyment and understanding of photography by creating challenging and entertaining opportunities to experience and appreciate distinctive, innovative photographs.

In November 2011 Open Eye Gallery re-launched in a brand new purpose-built home in one of the city's most prestigious and prominent new developments on the Liverpool Waterfront. The gallery's position at the heart of the regenerated Waterfront - next to the Museum of Liverpool and a stone's throw from Tate Liverpool and Albert Dock - cements its commitment to the city and its vibrant cultural life.

As well as presenting a programme of international, high-quality exhibitions Open Eye Gallery houses a permanent Archive containing photographs dating from the 1930s to the present day. The gallery also commissions Wall Works - large-scale graphic art installations for the external facade of the gallery.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

If you need to contact us to ask a question, arrange interviews or to request high-resolutions image files, please email Charlotte Anne Down, Marketing & Communications Officer
charlotte@openeye.org.uk / +44 (0) 151 242 1131

Gallery opening hours:

10.30am - 5.30pm, Tuesday to Sunday during exhibitions.

Closed on Mondays (except bank holidays) and during exhibition changeovers.

Ends -



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