

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 16 July 2009
For immediate release



Disposable People

Contemporary Global Slavery

A Hayward Touring exhibition in collaboration with Autograph ABP and Magnum Photos

Dates: Saturday 1 August - Saturday 12 September 2009

Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm

Admission: Free

Today, over 200 years after the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, an estimated 27 million people worldwide are still locked into slavery and servitude across the globe. This major new photographic exhibition, organised by Hayward Touring in collaboration with photographic agencies Autograph ABP and Magnum Photos takes an in-depth look at the prevalence of slavery and injustice in the 21st century through the lenses of eight internationally acclaimed documentary photographers. The exhibition began at the Royal Festival, Southbank Centre in London and comes to New Art Exchange, Nottingham as part of a national tour.

"Slavery in the contemporary world is what it has been since the beginning of human history - the complete control of one person by another. Violence is at the heart of that control, and the aim is profit."

- Kevin Bales, President of 'Free the Slaves'

These eight projects commissioned by Autograph ABP, are by members of Magnum, the world's leading photographic agency. All participating photographers have a strong interest in human rights and a record for world-class photo-journalism. In the 'heroic' era of photo-journalism, roughly from the Spanish Civil War until the late 1960s, it seemed that a single image could define the greatest human dramas and catastrophes. In our age of digital image manipulation, camera phones and 24-hour news media, the exhibition examines the power of the documentary photograph to record and illuminate human existence.

The photographers and subject matters are:

Abbas - documenting child labour in Bangladesh

Ian Berry - examines the effects of international trade rules on farmers in Ghana

Stuart Franklin - exploring chattel slavery in Sudan

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Jim Goldberg - documenting the trafficking of young people from Eastern Europe

Susan Meiselas - investigating the conditions of Indonesian women working in Singapore as domestic servants

Paolo Pellegrin - documenting Haitian 'Restaveks' (child slaves)

Chris Steele-Perkins - documenting South Korean women who were held as sex slaves by the Japanese in World War II and are still seeking restitution

Alex Webb - photographing Haitian cane workers held in organised bonded labour in the Dominican Republic

The exhibition has been conceived and curated by Mark Sealy, Director of Autograph ABP, and the international non-profit making photographic agency. Featuring over 100 photographs in a wide range of formats the exhibition will include commentaries by the photographers and contextual material produced in consultation with Professor Kevin Bales, President of the US based organization, Free the Slaves, and a world expert on modern slavery.

Mark Sealy, Director - Autograph ABP, says:

"I wanted to address the here and now, to draw attention to the fact that human trafficking for commercial gain is still a global problem and that today, as in the past, global economic market forces are the major contributing factor in making human life disposable."

Skinder Hundal, Chief Executive - New Art Exchange

"New Art Exchange is extremely proud to be hosting this outstanding exhibition, which will be documenting the work of world class photographers and reflecting an insight into lives of people who are essentially voiceless and ignored. This exhibition will hopefully connect with the general public and engage with, and debate, the issues raised by the exhibition."

Moira Sinclair, Executive Director - Arts Council England, stated:

"Art has the power to challenge assumptions, change perspectives and change lives. 'Disposable People' is an exhibition of real artistic value in itself, but the issues it raises has a profundity beyond the work. Art provides a forum for debate and we are proud to have supported this work in this aim."

Disposable People: Contemporary Global Slavery is supported by Arts Council England, MTV Europe Foundation, Christian Aid and Concern Worldwide, and will be on display at New Art Exchange between 1st August - 12th September 2009.

- Ends -

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Notes to Editors:

New Art Exchange

- Admission to the exhibition is FREE
- The exhibition will be running from Saturday 1st August - Saturday 12th September 2009.
- For more information visit the NAE website: www.thenewartexchange.org.uk

Catalogue

A full illustrated catalogue '*Documenting Disposable People*' has been published to coincide with the exhibition, featuring reproductions of all the photographs in the exhibition, alongside detailed personal testimonies and texts by the photographers and Kevin Bales. This will be available for purchase at New Art Exchange priced £19.99

Tour Venues

- 10 January - 21 February 2009 - The Gallery, Peninsula Art, University of Plymouth
- 28 February - 9 April 2009 - University of Northumbria, Newcastle
- 23 May - 5 July 2009 - Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle
- **1 August - 12 September 2009 - New Art Exchange, Nottingham**
- 7 Nov 2009 - 9 Jan 2010 - Aberystwyth Arts Centre

Hayward Touring

For over 40 years, The Hayward has played a key role in creating imaginative, high profile exhibitions in London and within the UK through Hayward Touring. The touring programme and the Arts Council Collection are managed by The Hayward on behalf of Arts Council England, and add to the Hayward's distinctive national remit.

Autograph ABP is a charity that works internationally to educate the public in photography, with a particular emphasis on issues of cultural identity and human rights. We achieve this through formal and informal education programmes, exhibitions, publishing and the creation of an archive of culturally diverse photography that is accessible to the public for research.

Magnum Photos is a photographic co-operative of great diversity and distinction owned by its photographer-members. Acclaimed for their powerful individual vision, Magnum photographers chronicle the world and interpret its people, events, issues, and personalities with empathy for their subject matter. Founded at the MOMA in New York in 1947 by the legendary Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, George Rodger, and David "Chim" Seymour, Magnum Photos celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2007. By capturing defining moments of the 20th century with iconic images Magnum has shaped our collective memory, and today continues to set standards for photographic integrity and authorship. Through its four editorial offices in New York, London, Paris and Tokyo, and a network of fifteen sub-agents, Magnum Photos provides photographs to the press, publishers, advertising, television, galleries and museums across the world.

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Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and The Hayward as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection.

New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins\ Brown** boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighbourhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*

Forthcoming Exhibition

Donald Locke: Pork Knocker Dreams is a mix of sculpture and paintings, exhibiting from **26 September to 20 December 2009**. Pork Knockers are intrepid individual gold prospectors, searching the jungles of the mythical El Dorado. Locke's influence has been acknowledged in seminal British exhibitions such as 'Back to Black' and 'The Other Story'. Curated by Indra Khanna and produced in partnership with New Art Exchange.