

Press Release

Emily Allchurch *In the Footsteps of a Master* 13 March - 8 June 2015



(L) Hiroshige: *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo* (1856-58) # 38. *Dawn inside the Yoshimara*, (R) Emily Allchurch: *Tokyo Story 7: Nightfall (after Hiroshige)* 2011

Emily Allchurch uses photography to recreate old master paintings and prints, creating new and contemporary narratives. For her first solo exhibition in a major public gallery, Allchurch will showcase her celebrated *Tokyo Story* and *Tokaido Road* series, which pay homage to the 19th century Japanese printmaker Utagawa Hiroshige. Displayed as light-boxes, Allchurch's works reveal not only changes to the topography but also to Japanese society and customs. They will be shown alongside a selection of Manchester Art Gallery's collection of exquisite but rarely seen original Hiroshige woodblock prints with some loans from our partner, the Whitworth and the British Museum.

Thanks to a successful crowdfunding campaign with The Art Fund, Manchester Art Gallery have commissioned Allchurch to make a new work based on the painting *Albert Square, Manchester, 1910* by French Impressionist Adolphe Valette. Valette, who lived and worked in Manchester for many years, painted atmospheric views of the city, and these are a favourite with residents and visitors alike. His works capture the essence of Manchester at the turn of the 20th century. Allchurch's updated re-creation of Valette's Edwardian cityscape reveals Manchester as the multicultural 21st Century city it is today, resonant with echoes of its historic past. Allchurch has succeeded in creating a re-imagined Valette for our age.

Allchurch's works are seamless digital collages, using hundreds of photographs, taken in urban environments today. The complex photographic images have a resonance with place, history and culture and deal with the passage of time and the changes to a landscape, fusing contemporary life with a sense of history. Her works start with the language of the master but end with her voice.

LISTINGS

Exhibition: *In the Footsteps of a Master*

Dates: 13 March – 7 June 2015

Venue: Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3JL

Tel: 0161 235 8888 Textphone: 0161 235 8893

Hours: Open daily, 10am - 5pm and Thursdays 10am- 9pm

Website: www.manchestergalleries.org

Entry: Free

For further press information and to request images please contact Emma Morgan at Sutton PR on + 44 (0)20 7183 3577 or email emma@suttonpr.com

For further press information on Art Happens please contact Madeline Adeane at the Art Fund on +44 (0)20 7225 4804 or email madeane@artfund.org

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About Manchester Art Gallery

Manchester Art Gallery is one of country's finest art museums. We welcome over half a million visitors each year to our home in the heart of the city, a blend of historic and contemporary architecture that echoes our innovative artistic programme. We mix works from our wonderful historic collections with the best international contemporary art to bring fresh perspectives to familiar images, create visual dialogues and encourage conversation and debate.

About Emily Allchurch

Based in the UK, Emily Allchurch received her MA from the Royal College of Art and has exhibited extensively internationally. Within her work, Emily Allchurch uses photography to reconstruct Old Master paintings and prints to create contemporary narratives. Her works are seamless digital collages, using hundreds of photographs, taken at the same site of the original source material. The complex photographic images have a resonance with place, history and culture and deal with the passage of time and the changes to a landscape, fusing contemporary life with a sense of history.

A complete set of Emily Allchurch's *Tokyo Story* series is in the permanent collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The series has also been exhibited at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute (2014), Tokaido Hiroshige Museum, Japan (2013-14), Japan Society Gallery, New York (2013), Diemar Noble Photography, London (2011) and the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, London (2011.) Other group exhibitions include */seconds* at Sharjah Art Foundation (2014), *Small is Beautiful* at Flowers, London/New York, (2013 & 2014), *Sense of Soane* at PM Gallery & House, London and School of Art Gallery, Aberystwyth (2012 - 2014) and RA Summer Show at the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2013 & 2014).

About The Art Fund

The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art, helping museums to buy and show great art for everyone. Over the past 5 years we've given over £26m to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections and placed hundreds of gifts and bequests, from ancient sculpture and treasure hoards to Old Master paintings and contemporary commissions, with 25% of grants going towards works by living artists. We also help museums share their collections with wider audiences through supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, including the national tour of the Artist Rooms collection and the 2013-2014 tours of Grayson Perry's tapestries *The Vanity of Small Differences* and Jeremy Deller's *English Magic*, the British Council commission for the 2013 Venice Biennale. Our support for museums extends to the Art Guide app – the comprehensive guide to seeing art across the UK, promoting a network of over 680 museums and galleries throughout the country, and the £100,000 Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year – an annual celebration of the best of UK museums, won in 2013 by William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. We are independently funded, the majority of our income coming from over 108,000 members who, through the National Art Pass, enjoy free entry to over 220 museums, galleries and historic houses across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions.

For further information on the Art Fund, Art Happens and the National Art Pass please visit www.artfund.org or @artfund on Twitter

Arts Council England

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, we will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk