

14 September 2009

The
Photographers'
Gallery

Press Release

Jim Goldberg: Open See

Dates: 16 October 2009 – 17 January 2010
Press View: 10.00 – 13.00, 15 October 2009
Location: 16 – 18 Ramillies Street, W1

Open See will be the first UK solo exhibition for the Magnum photographer Jim Goldberg (USA, b.1953). Begun as a Magnum commission for the Greek Olympiad in the summer of 2004, it documents the experiences of refugee, immigrant and trafficked populations who travel from war torn, socially and economically devastated countries, to make new lives in Europe. Originating from locations as varied as Iraq, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Ukraine, The Balkans, Congo, Liberia, Mauritania and India, these 'new Europeans' have left often violent, oppressive, poverty stricken or AIDS ravaged communities, in search of stability and the promise of a better future.

Since 2003, Goldberg has been photographing and collecting stories through a range of formats: Polaroids, video, written text, ephemera, and large and medium format photographs. The exhibition installation will reflect Goldberg's dynamic approach to the documentary genre through multi-faceted displays of imagery and text. These will include Polaroids, which have been marked, destroyed and written on by the subjects they portray. The words and images combine to tell the intimate and often violent stories of past and present experiences. Faces and features are sometimes scratched out, coloured in, or marked in some way.

Larger scale colour photographs depict landscapes from the subjects' countries of origin, which Goldberg visits after meeting them in their newly adopted countries and having heard their stories. These works reflect Goldberg's interest in the motivations behind migration and the conditions for desiring escape.

Open See continues Goldberg's innovative use of image and text, a signature technique in his work. He began to explore experimental storytelling with the series *Rich and Poor* (1977 – 1985), which highlighted inequalities within the American class system. In *Raised by Wolves* (1985 – 1995), he closely documented a group of homeless teenagers in Los Angeles and San Francisco over ten years.

Jim Goldberg became a full member of Magnum Photos in 2006 and is a Professor of Art at the California College of Arts and Crafts. His work is represented in major private and public collections, including MoMA and Whitney Museum in New York, SF MoMA in San Francisco, and The J.Paul Getty Museum and LACMA in Los Angeles. Goldberg has received many awards and grants including, most recently, the Aftermath Project Award in 2006 and the HCB Award 2007. The HCB Award is made possible by the support of Groupe Wendel. *Open See* will be published by Steidl in August 2009 and available from The Photographers' Gallery Bookshop.

The Photographers' Gallery is committed to exhibiting photographers whose work has not otherwise been seen in the UK. *Jim Goldberg: Open See* is a Magnum Photos Touring Exhibition, co-produced by Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation.

For further information or to request images please contact the Press Office:
Call: Sam Trenerry +44 (0)20 7087 9333 or Email: press@photonet.org.uk

PO Box 49799
London WC2H 7HB
www.photonet.org.uk

Visit us at:
16 – 18 Ramillies Street
London W1F 7LW
Admission free

Monday closed
Tues, Wed, Sat 11.00 – 18.00
Thurs & Fri 11.00 – 20.00
Sun 12.00 – 18.00