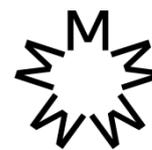


THE  
HEPWORTH  
WAKEFIELD



Art Fund  
Museum of  
the Year 2017  
Winner

MODERN NATURE

/

BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE HYMAN COLLECTION  
13 July 2018 – 22 April 2019  
FREE ADMISSION



Daniel Meadows  
*National Portrait (Three Boys and a Pigeon)*  
1974

*'From the deep indigo and black scarlets of the industrial heart we sailed through the unimaginable beauty of unspoiled countryside. These conflicting landscapes really shaped, I think, my whole life.'* - Barbara Hepworth on growing up in Wakefield

For the first time in human history, more people are living in urban environments than in the countryside, yet the impulse to seek out nature remains as strong as ever. This new exhibition of photographs by leading British photographers—such as Shirley Baker, Bill Brandt, Anna Fox, Chris Killip, Martin Parr and Tony Ray-Jones explores our evolving relationship with the natural world and how this shapes individuals and communities.

Drawn from the collection of Claire and James Hyman, which comprises more than 3,000 photographs ranging from conceptual compositions to documentary-style works, *Modern Nature* will include around 60 photographs taken since the end of the Second World War, through the beginnings of de-industrialisation to the present day. It will explore the merging of urban and rural landscapes, the rapid expansion of cities and the increasingly intrusive management of the countryside. Rather than present a Romantic dichotomy between the rural and the urban, the exhibition presents a more contemporary sensibility that is

frequently situated in the edgelands, the often scruffy margins, in which town blurs with countryside.

A number of photographs on display, including The Caravan Gallery's quizzical views of urban centres and Chris Shaw's 'Weeds of Wallasey' series (2007–12), capture the ways in which nature infiltrates the city. Others, such as Mark Power's 'The Shipping Forecast' series (1993–6) and Marketa Luskacova's *NE Seaside* (1978) images document trips out to the coast and countryside, driven by the sometimes powerful need to escape urban life. They are by turns poetic and humorous, occasionally absurd.

A strand running through the exhibition will look at how children reclaim space for play and exploration, exemplified through works including Daniel Meadows's *National Portrait (Three Boys and a Pigeon)* (1974), Jo Spence's 'Gypsies' series (1974) and Paul Hill's *Legs over High Tor* (1975).

James Hyman said: 'Claire and I were delighted when The Hepworth Wakefield approached us about staging an exhibition curated from works in our collection. The Hyman Collection seeks to support and promote British photography, and is especially committed to exhibitions and education, so we were excited to work with The Hepworth Wakefield on this exhibition and related events, and fascinated by the theme that they chose to present. As a young gallery The Hepworth Wakefield is fast developing a reputation for curating important exhibitions of photographs, as a part of their dynamic exhibition programme, and we hope that our partnership with The Hepworth Wakefield will encourage their ambitions in this area.'

## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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High-resolution images with captions and credits from the Media Centre:  
[www.hepworthwakefield.org/press](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org/press)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

The full list of artists in *Modern Nature*:  
Keith Arnatt, Shirley Baker, John Blakemore, Bill Brandt, John Davies, Anna Fox, Stephen Gill, Brian Griffin, Paul Hill, Colin Jones, Chris Killip, Marketa Luskacova, Daniel Meadows, Peter Mitchell, Martin Parr, Mark Power, Tony Ray-Jones, Paul Reas, Simon Roberts, Chris Shaw, Jo Spence, The Caravan Gallery.

## ABOUT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The Hepworth Wakefield is an award-winning art gallery in the heart of Yorkshire, set within Wakefield's historic waterfront, overlooking the River Calder. Designed by the acclaimed David Chipperfield Architects, the gallery opened in May 2011 and has already welcomed two million visitors. The gallery was awarded Art Fund Museum of the Year in July 2017. Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century, who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art. It also is home to Wakefield's art collection – an impressive compendium of modern British and contemporary art – and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art and working process.

The Hepworth Wakefield is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England.

## ABOUT THE HYMAN COLLECTION

The Hyman Collection is the private collection of Claire and James Hyman. It presently consists of over 3,000 artworks in all media, with an increasing emphasis on photography from its earliest days in the nineteenth century through to contemporary conceptual practice. The Collection seeks to support and promote British photography through acquisitions, loans and education. In 2015 [britishphotography.org](http://britishphotography.org) was launched to provide online access to British photographs in the collection and as a learning resource to increase international awareness of British photography. As well as including forms of documentary photography, the collection focuses on artists working in photography who have pursued more subjective or conceptual strategies. The collection has historic as well as contemporary photographs and includes an equal number of works by male and female artists.