

LOST BOYS

The Territories of Youth

28 March – 7 July 2013

Lewis Glucksman Gallery
University College Cork

Artists: Eleanor Antin, Doug DuBois, Douglas Gordon, David Haines, Seamus Harahan, Richard Hughes, Julien Nguyen, Alex Rose, Collier Schorr, Steven Shearer, Gillian Wearing

Curated by **Denis Linehan and Matt Packer**

What does it mean to be a young man today? How have social and economic changes affected our understanding of masculinity, and how are these reflected in the experiences of adolescent males? The Lewis Glucksman Gallery is pleased to welcome you to *Lost Boys*, an exhibition that looks at the public and private spaces in which young men discover a sense of their own identity and how this experience shapes their role in society today.

Lost Boys is an exhibition at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, that explores the territories of male adolescence from Irish, European, and North American artistic perspectives. From the high street and sports arena to the bedrooms of heavy metal fanatics, *Lost Boys* reflects on the public and private spaces where male identities are invented, performed and contested. It is in these places that young men forge friendships, navigate social relationships, express their individuality and come to terms with their impending adulthood.

In Collier Schorr's photographs of wrestlers from Blair Academy, a private boarding school in New Jersey, groups of athletes enact the rituals of masculinity through physical sports. The images capture both the camaraderie of high school athletics and the sense of competitiveness that is often instilled in young males. Like Eleanor Antin's playful self-portraits as a fantastical king or Douglas Gordon's archival film installation of a young, yet psychologically traumatised, World War One veteran struggling to stand upright, these works evoke the tensions between societal and individual expectations of male identity.

This tension is also aggravated by the wider social conditions of unemployment and emigration. The young men in David Haines' intricate drawings engage in unique 'coming of age' ceremonies against a backdrop of deprived housing estates and absent parental figures, while Richard Hughes reconfigures abandoned everyday objects such as lampposts and domestic doors into sculptural assemblages. In a specifically Irish context, Seamus Harahan's video works and Doug DuBois' *My Last Day at Seventeen*, a series of portraits of adolescents in Cobh, capture their subjects hanging out in various suburban locations. Sites like parklands, residential cul-de-sacs, and redundant industrial areas present opportunities for self-expression for young people beyond the sight of the adult gaze. In the absence of other meeting places, young men can retain some autonomy and affirm their own identity.

This sense of uncertainty and apprehension towards adults is captured in Gillian Wearing's video work, where four fidgety teenagers have been instructed to sit still for almost an hour. Their

evident restlessness before the camera reveals some of the insecurities that accompany adolescence, and this atmosphere pervades Steven Shearer's drawings and collages of young heavy metal fans. His subjects express themselves through their taste in music and clothing, borrowing elements from different genres and subcultures to fashion their own distinct and idiosyncratic style. In Julien Nguyen's work, this appropriation of imagery and ideas traditionally associated with masculinity is subverted to represent gay identity, while Alex Rose employs a similar artistic method of collage. Combining found photographic images and sculptural elements, his work continually attempts to develop an individual, highly personal form of self-representation.

The territories of youth are the spaces where young men congregate, contemplate, interact and explore their identity. They are where adolescent males figure out exactly who they are and what they will become. Through artworks that examine group behaviour, fashion, gender and sexuality, *Lost Boys* explores these different models of masculinity and the ways in which they reflect our changing society.

Notes to Editor

An illustrated exhibition guide accompanies *Lost Boys* with information on all artists, a guide to works in the show and a reflection on the exhibition theme by **Dr. Denis Linehan**. This is available to press in PDF format on request.

The curators of *Lost Boys*, Denis Linehan and Matt Packer, are available for interview. For further discussion of the exhibition, press images or more detailed information, please contact exhibitions@glucksman.org

- ⤴ The exhibition features two winners of the prestigious Turner Prize, Douglas Gordon (1996) and Gillian Wearing (1997)
- ⤴ The first exhibition in Ireland for artists Steven Shearer, Collier Schorr, and Eleanor Antin.
- ⤴ The earliest work in the exhibition is from 1972 (Eleanor Antin) and the most recent work in the exhibition is from 2013 (Julien Nguyen)
- ⤴ Doug DuBois' photographic series 'My Last Day at Seventeen' was produced during an artist residency at Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, through working with local youths. DuBois was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in Photography in 2012.
- ⤴ Steven Shearer represented Canada at the 2011 Venice Biennale. Based in Vancouver, his work has been exhibited at galleries including Tate Modern in London and Barbara Gladstone Gallery in New York.
- ⤴ Eleanor Antin is one of America's best-known performance artists and has made artworks in film, video, photography and text. Solo exhibitions of her work include shows at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and the Getty Museum, Los Angeles.
- ⤴ Based in Amsterdam, artist David Haines has exhibited his delicate drawings and watercolours at exhibitions including the 2012 Armory Show, New York; Art Rotterdam; and the 2011 Istanbul Biennial.
- ⤴ Alex Rose is a Cork-based artist whose work in collage and mixed-media has been shown at Envoy Enterprises, New York and Kantor Gallery, Los Angeles.

Biographies:

Dr Denis Linehan graduated from the University of Nottingham in 1998. He joined the School of Geography and Archaeology at UCC in 2000, having previously worked at the University of Wales and the University of Lancaster. He lectures across a broad range of graduate and undergraduate modules in the University, in areas concerned with the contemporary and historical conditions of urban life. His publications include *Atlas of Cork City*, 2005 (CUP), *Spacing Ireland: Place, Society and Culture in a Post-Boom Era*, 2013 (MUP) and *Ordinance: War Architecture and Space*, 2013 (Ashgate). At the Graduate School in CACSSS, Denis delivers trans-disciplinary training in theory and research practice for the Social Sciences and the Humanities. He has convened Master Class events on: *Sound and Society*, *Negotiating the City: Literature, Cultures and Theory*, *the Creative Economy and the Humanities*, *Critical Discourse Analysis and Memory – Politics, Place and Practice*. He has recently completed a phase as External Examiner at University of Cambridge, and is vice Chair of the Geographical Sciences Committee at the Royal Irish Academy.

Matt Packer is Curator of Exhibitions & Projects at Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, where he has curated and co-curated exhibitions such as *Motion Capture* (2012), *In Other Words* (2011), *Wishful Thinking* (2011), *School Days* (2010), and *Getting Even* (2008-9). In 2013, he will curate and direct a season of exhibitions at Treignac Projet, France, include solo presentations by Bea McMahon and Florian Roithmayr, as well as the group exhibition *O Flesh*, featuring Fabienne Audeoud, Anne de Vries, John Russell, Christian Jankowski, Allan Sekula, Kaspar Oppen Samuelsen, and Francis Upritchard, among others. Other recent independent projects include *A Neutral Flexible Structure*, a collaboration with Morten Torgersrud at Hordaland Kunstsenter, Bergen (2012), *When Flanders Failed*, at Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin (2011), and *Ice Trade* at Chelsea Space, London (2007). His writings have appeared in magazines and journals such as *Camera Austria*, *Source Photographic Review*, and *Photography & Culture*, as well as in curatorial publications by The Institute of Social Hypocrisy and FormContent. Matt is a graduate of the curatorial programme at Goldsmiths College, London, and a member of IKT: The International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art.