

## PERSONAL, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC

A new exhibition at Jersey Library Gallery brings together work produced by A-level photography students at Hautlieu School in 2016. For their personal investigations each student had to produce a photobook and write a critical essay exploring themes such as faith, family and community. In constructing their visual narrative students were challenged to think about ways to explore the notion of an archive, either by re-contextualising family photo albums or engaging with the Photographic Archive at the Société Jersiaise. The exhibition presents the students' images both as prints and within photobooks.

Since September 2015 students have been learning diverse approaches to documentary and storytelling in photography. Encouraged to find their own voices and unique stories, students are required to write an online blog that demonstrates their research, analysis and experimentation in response to practical and theoretical tasks using lens-based media. Photobooks have become an important art form in the digital era as a way of fusing design and print to tell contemporary stories. Narratives explored by students at Hautlieu School through the photographic image include family bonds, relationship break-ups, abandonment issues, the roles played by mothers at home and work or discovering the biographies of ancestors.

*Personal, Private or Public* is a collaboration between Hautlieu School Photography Department and Archisle: Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme at the Société Jersiaise Photographic Archive. It celebrates students' achievements and showcases their photobooks and a selection of images from their individual personal study projects. In 2015, in recognition of the quality of the contribution being made by Jersey photography students to visual archives we founded the Archisle Student Archive. The best student projects, photobooks and images will therefore now enter the permanent record. For further insights into the students' projects and ideas please visit the Hautlieu A-level Photography Blog online: <http://www.hautlieucreative.co.uk/photo16a2/>



Image: Max Le Feuvre, from *Untitled*



Image: Jessica Freire from the project 'Domestic'



Image: Sammie Pitter, from the project 'Crowds & Gatherings'

Hautlieu Photography Tutor, Martin Toft commented that 'At Hautlieu we want our students to reflect on current critical practice in contemporary photography and I am very pleased that students engaged so strongly with archival material in constructing their visual narratives. They learned a great deal not only about their own family, but also how resources like the Société Jersiaise Photo Archive can enrich understanding of our own sense of place and identity. The quality of some of the work is well beyond the criteria of A-levels and will strengthen the portfolios of those students who wish to continue studying photography or the creative industries degree at university.'

Student Max Le Feuvre hand made his photobook, *Untitled*. His project explores the life of his Grandfather Arthur Le Feuvre whom he never met. Max used the Photographic Archive at the Société Jersiaise to discover more about his Grandfather's life. In his statement Max explains: 'My photo-book, *Untitled* is based around my Grandfather. He died 30 years ago and so I never got the chance to meet him. I wanted to find out more about him and develop an understanding of what he may have been like. This project was therefore very much about investigating the theme of absence; a story based around someone who is not directly a part of it. I photographed off and on for 9 months, re-tracing my Grandfather's steps and using photography to express my findings. Archival resources have played a huge part in my project, especially the access I have gained to the Société Jersiaise Photographic Archives through my Creative Pathways student placement at the archive. These resources, I have found, play as much a part in the story as do my own visual responses.'



Images from the series *Untitled* by Max Le Feuvre

Shannon O'Donnell made a film about her mother's role as a homemaker, investigating the history of feminism from the Suffragettes to the Femen Movement. Using the film as a starting point and taking inspiration from artists such as Cindy Sherman and Claude Cahun, Shannon made a set of self-portraits re-enacting her mother's domestic identity.

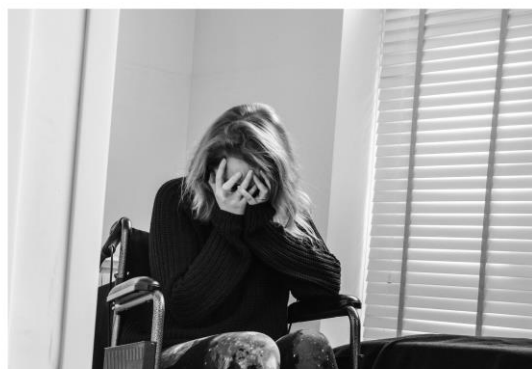


Images from *Shrinking Violet* by Shannon O'Donnell

Here Shannon explains some of her ideas behind her photo book, *Shrinking Violet*: '*Shrinking Violet* stemmed from a short film that I created as part of my project about my mother. I made a film based around an interview that I did with my mum. Part of the interview sparked my interest when she said 'I'm not one of those shrinking violets in the work place'. This caught my attention as I see her role as simply doing what is expected of her, something that I want to challenge through my photographic work. This brought on the idea for creating a parody shoot where I dress as a persona, similar to my mum, and pose around the house mimicking the role I see my mum portray. I wanted my photobook to embody the traditional role for women that our society perceives and for spectators to view the images I have created to recognise themselves, their mothers, their sisters and their wives. Gender defines everyone and, at times, can be limiting. It makes us feel that we need to belong and conform to the expectations placed upon us at birth based solely upon whether we were born male or female.'

Gareth Syvret, Photographic Archivist at the Société Jersiaise said 'We want the photographic archive to be a dynamic living resource and we therefore encourage students to engage, research, question and respond to what they find in both public and private archives. The projects represented in this exhibition reveal the benefits these critical processes have on developing the most important ingredient for any photographer; a good idea they are passionate about. Through their hard work the students have come full circle and are now making their own mark on the archive of our times.'

## Press Images



Images: Hayli Ducker, from the project 'My Bones Hurt'



## Press Images



Images: Jemma Hosegood, from the project 'Memory Box'



Image: Viviana Maia, from the project 'Abstraction'



Image: Emily Heaven, from the project 'The Heavens'



Images: Sian Cumming, from the project 'The Butler'



Images: Ben Reid, from the project 'Come 'n' Chill'



Images: Dylan Falle, from the project 'Through the Eyes of the Passionate Few'

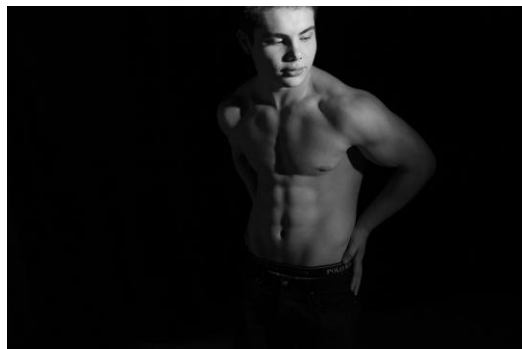


Image: Emily Vetier, from the project 'Kratos'



Image: Jamie-Lee Douglas, from the project 'Back in my day...'

#### Notes to Editors:

- The *Personal, Private or Public* exhibition is at the Jersey Library Gallery, Second Floor from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (closed Sundays).
- An Exhibition Launch will take place at the Jersey Library Gallery on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 5.30 – 7:00pm.
- A Lunchtime Talk with Martin Toft, Photography Tutor, Gareth Syvret, Photo Archivist, Société Jersiaise and Hautlieu Photography Students will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April from 1:15 -1:45pm at the Community Meeting Room, Jersey Library, First Floor.
- *Personal, Private or Public* is a collaboration between Hautlieu School Photography Department and Archisle; Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme at the Société Jersiaise Photo Archive.
- Archisle: The Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme, hosted by the Société Jersiaise, promotes contemporary photography through an ongoing programme of exhibitions, education and commissions.
- The Archisle project connects photographic archives, contemporary practice and experiences of island cultures and geographies through the development of a space for creative discourse between Jersey and international practitioners.
- Archisle project website at: [www.archisle.org.je](http://www.archisle.org.je)
- Hautlieu Photography Department website: [www.hautlieucreative.co.uk](http://www.hautlieucreative.co.uk)

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