

ENTREPÔT

A maritime photographic research project exploring the history of Jersey's cod-fishing trade in Canada and its merchant networks in the West Indies, South America, Mediterranean and Baltic in the 18th and 19th centuries.

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martintoft.com



ENTREPÔT

Throughout history the island of Jersey has always operated as an *entrepôt*– a trading post between Europe, the United Kingdom and the wider world. [Entrepôt](#) explore how, through the prism of colonial and family history, Jersey’s original wealth generated by the proceeds from the North Atlantic fisheries and maritime trade in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries lay the foundation for the island’s future prosperity. Combining work from both long-term research and lens-based projects on fish [The Seaflower Venture](#) and finance [Masterplan](#) it proposes to re-address parts of the legacy upon which Jersey’s economic growth and development in the past, present and future has been told. Theoretically, Entrepôt is based around Rosemary E. Ommer’s structural economical analysis of the Jersey-Gaspé cod fishery which reveals a functional three-pointed trading system in what she refers to as a ‘merchant triangle’ with production in Canada, management in Jersey and markets in the West Indies, South America, Mediterranean and the Baltic. The project is centred around cod-merchant Charles Robin who founded the most successful Jersey firm on the Gaspé Peninsula and the extraordinary photographic archive and unpublished biographical narrative of Robin’s life based on his own diaries written by Phyllis Gertrude Ross in the 1950s. Using her manuscript of some 275,000 words as a narrative structure, and probing this important history of Jersey’s maritime identity through a photographic discourse the project explore the creative potential for image-making between the fictional and non-fictional story about Robin’s trading posts in the new British colonies in North America and its merchant networks in the West Indies, South America, Mediterranean and the Baltic.

Field Studies & Research

Since 2017 several trips to colonial outposts in the maritime network has been completed; travelling over 60,000 kms across land, sea and air, researching multiple archives and developing a large repository of new visual and textual material.

— JERSEY 2017-2024

St Helier and St Aubin

— CANADA 2017

Gaspé, Ottawa and Montréal

— BRAZIL 2018

Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Recife and Belém

— BELIZE/ HONDURAS 2019

Belize City, Northern River, Belmopan, Dangriga, Roatán and Utila

— PORTUGAL 2017 & 2021-22

Lisbon, Setúbal, Porto, Viana do Castelo, Aveiro, Figueira da Foz and Tavira

— SPAIN 2017, 2022 & 2023

Seville, Cádiz, Malaga, San Sebastian, Bilbao, Santander, Coruña and Vigo

— ITALY 2020

Livorno, Civitavecchia, Naples, Messina, Palermo, Gallipoli, Ancona and Trieste

— BALTIC 2021

Antwerp, Hamburg, Szczecin, Gdansk, Riga, Tallin, Helsinki, Kotka, Pori, Rauma, Turku, Härnösand, Sundsvall, Söderhamn, Gävle, Gothenburg, Elsinore and Lübeck

— ENGLAND 2022

Liverpool, Woodchurch, Frankby and Chester

Project Outcomes & Delivery

Entrepôt is a collaborative photographic research project between Martin Toft and the Société Jersiaise Photographic Archive in the island of Jersey. A number of desired creative outcomes are planned to be delivered.

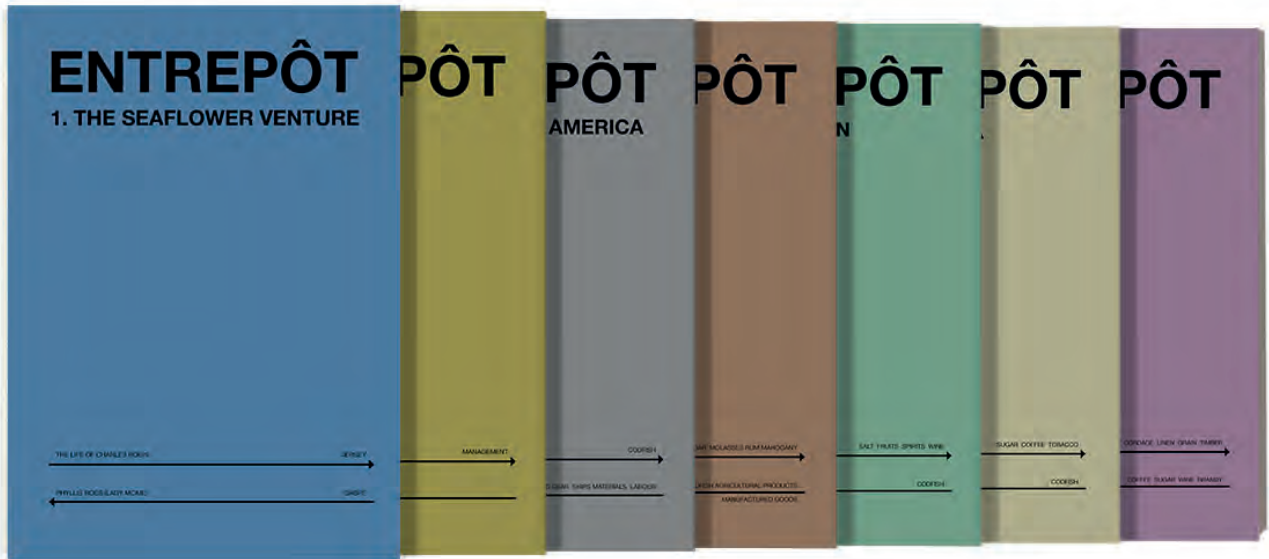
— Publications comprising a set of 7 individual photobooks (Entrepôt), each representing an entrepôt in the transatlantic maritime network, and a stand-alone novel (The Seaflower Venture) of the unpublished biographical narrative of Charles Robin, written by Phyllis Gertrude Ross.

— Audio-visual film with video footage recorded from various ports where Jersey vessels would trade, including St Helier Harbour. Narrated with a reading from The Seaflower Venture manuscript and Charles Robin’s 18th century diary.

— Major exhibition touring locally and internationally to places that were part of the international merchant network.

— Outdoor semi-permanent installation in St Helier Harbour and Marina.

— Visual material to be deposited in the Contemporary Photography Collection at the Société Jersiaise Photographic Archive for future research and public enjoyment.



Film narrated from The Seaflower Venture manuscript and Charles Robin's 18th century dairies.



Exhibition touring locally and internationally



PUBLICATIONS



Entrepôt

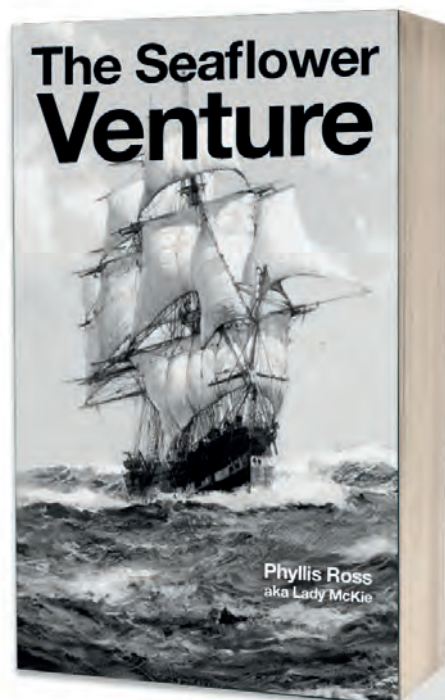
Set of 7 photobooks

- Author/ photographs: Martin Toft
- Book concept: Martin Toft, Ania Nátecka-Milach
- Book design: Ania Nátecka-Milach
- Editing and sequencing: Martin Toft
- Text: Martin Toft
- Hardcover, swiss-binding, silkscreen
- Dimensions: 297mm (h) x 210mm (w)
- Pages: 96, 7 volumes
- Images: 70-80 photographs
- Printing and binding: Argraf / EBS
- Printed in Poland / Italy
- Print run: 1000 copies
- Publisher: Dewi Lewis Publishing

The Seaflower Venture

a biographical narrative of Charles Robin's life

- Author/ text: Phyllis Ross aka Lady McKie
- Executive Editor: Martin Toft
- Book design: Patrick Cahill
- Editor: Dean Conrad
- Paperback, lithography
- Dimensions: 197mm (h) x 127mm (w)
- Pages: 300
- Printing and binding: SRP
- Printed in UK
- Print run: 1000
- Publisher: Éditions Emile



EXHIBITIONS

Gallery exhibition
touring locally and internationally



Entrepôt

Gallery exhibition touring locally/internationally
Outdoor installation SH Harbour & Marina

- Photographs / film / text: Martin Toft
- Visual concept: Martin Toft and Kummer & Herrman
- Design: Kummer & Herrman
- Curation: Martin Toft / international partners
- Printing (Gallery): Spectrum Photographic
- Framing/ mounting: Victoria Art Gallery
- Printing (installation): Captured Dreams Jersey
- Outdoor installation: Signtech?
- Film production: Martin Toft / AHJ
- Film projection: Delta / Stage 2 Production

BITTER Chocolate Stories, (above) Kummer & Herrman, Amsterdam 2017 In collaboration with Tony's Chocolonely and Paradox. WASTELAND (below), Kummer & Herrman, Amsterdam, 2018. Modular traveling exhibition as an intervention in public space.

Outdoor installation
SH Harbour & Marina



FILM



From the outset Jean-Baptiste Giroux of Caraquet does business with Charles Robin, who describes their meeting in a room where seaweed is being burnt to ward off mosquitoes. 'It is hard to be imprisoned in a smoky room by so little an insect;', wrote Robin, who, unable to stand it any longer, had removed to his shallop in the night.

Everyday Life on the Coast of Acadia and in the Province of Quebec, 1767-1787. Marguerite Syvret. SJ Bulletin, 1976: pg 472

'Perhaps it is therefore not so strange that the pungent smell of toasting seaweed from the dried vraick bruning and crackling on my hearth today shoud bring back vividly the scene of our childhood kitchen in Ty Anna.'

Charles Robin's Remark on His Childhood in Jersey, The Seaflower Venture by Phyllis Gertrude Ross 1979



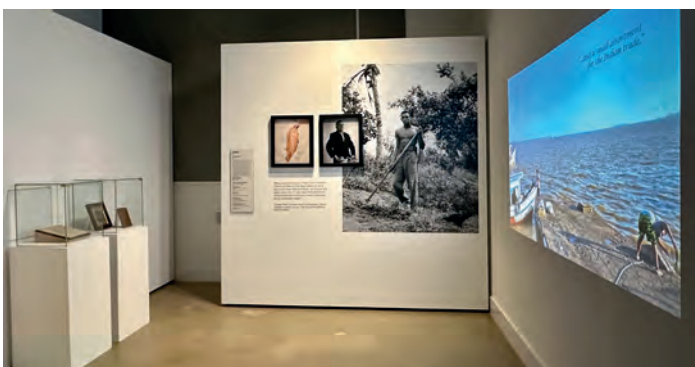
'Being pinched hurts my credit and character. There's no slave in the West Indies but what has much more time to himself and enjoys life better than I do, if I was clear of the business all the treasures in the World would not tempt me to undertake it again'

Charles Robin's Diary 1767-73 & 1787, Letter dated 1st July 1784.

The Seaflower Venture

film production

- Film maker: Martin Toft
- Script editor: Dean Conrad
- Sound design: Sam Hills
- Narration: John Henry Falle
- Production: Martin Toft, ArtHouse Jersey
- Exhibition: Capital House, ArtHouse Jersey
- Projection: SH Harbour, Ports of Jersey



The Channel Islands Contemporary Art Show

A gallery exhibition touring Jersey and Guernsey produced and curated by ArtHouse Jersey and Art for Guernsey in association with Lex Chamos Libres, Rennes. Exhibition at Capital House, St Helier 18 Jan-25 Feb and Art for Guernsey, St Peter Port 7 March - 6 April 2024.

PARTNERSHIP

Entrepôt is an ambitious multi-faceted research and lens-based project with a range of critical enquiries exploring the island of Jersey as a global trading post. It will provide a vital legacy and resource to effectively tell the story about the island's connectivity to the sea for trade, commerce and its economic prosperity past and present.

—Main partners

GOJ: Funding from new Art Strategy through the Arts Grants. Entrepôt fulfils two of the four strategic themes (C and D) and two of the five commitments (2 and 5).

POJ: Sponsoring cost of an exhibition (indoor/outdoor) on SH Harbour and Marina.

—Institutional partners

AHJ: Acts as an institutional partner in Jersey assisting with production and funding of film, as well as establishing collaborative links with international arts and culture organisations.

SJ: Providing assistance with archival research, text translation, book design (Seaflower Venture) and repository for project material to be deposited in Jersey's cultural records.

—Cultural partners

Part of the vision is to establish cultural links with institutions in some of the countries where production of work (field studies and research) from Entrepôt have taken place. These collaborations could facilitate the Entrepôt outcomes (publications, exhibition, film) to travel but also explore further opportunities for exchanges through a future artist-in-residence programme linked to community and education engagement that could be part of a wider arts festival, cultural twinning or partnerships between schools, colleges, governments, business and tourism.

—Production partners

Martin Toft (DK/JE): Artist, executive editor, producer and project management

Ania Nalecka/ Tapir Design (PL): Book design and managing print production

Dewi Lewis Publishing (UK): Publisher and distribution

Kummer & Herrman (NL): Exhibition concept and visualisation

Dean Conrad (UK/ JE): Text and script editor

Patrick Cahill (FR/JE): Book design and archiving

AHJ (JE): Production partner (film) and marketing

Spectrum Photographic (UK): Gallery exhibitions and mounting (C-type prints)

Signtech/Captured Dreams Jersey (JE):

Weatherproof printing and mounting for outdoor installations, and wall prints, text, signage for gallery exhibitions.

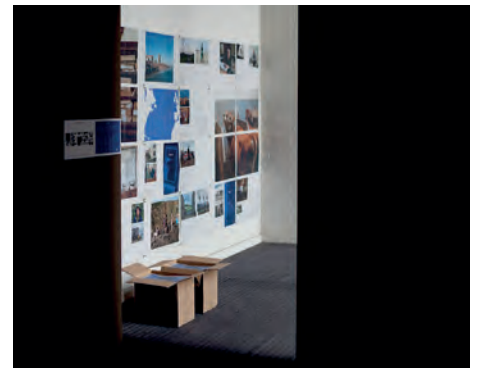
FUNDING

We are seeking funding from sponsors who share our vision and understanding of the need for a visual record of the development of Jersey's historical and economical links with the North Atlantic cod-fisheries in Canada and its international merchant network

- Entrepôt will be produced over a specific time period of 4 years (2023 - 2026) delivering clearly defined and scalable outcomes.
- Entrepôt offers key benefits to investors by connecting history and industry with culture and community in reaching new audiences and markets in Jersey and overseas.
- Entrepôt project and outcomes offers opportunity for cultural diplomacy, international relations and capital exchange through re-establishing links with historical trade networks, as well as developing new strategic connections between Jersey-based and international arts and culture organisations.
- Opportunity to develop in collaboration with JH, AHJ and CYPES an education and community engagement programme of talks, film screenings and workshops about Jersey's maritime history, heritage and legacy.
- Acquisition on behalf of Jersey Museum for the exhibited works and publications to become part of the island's national collection for future public enjoyment.
- Option for an agreed set of works from Entrepôt project to be part of a public, private or corporate art collection, including publications that can be used for internal, non-commercial use.
- Sponsors will receive a detailed budget and schedule of outcomes and benefits, supplied with a contract, which will be carefully managed, consulted and communicated throughout the duration of the project.
- Timing and date for launch of Entrepôt publications, exhibition and film could be linked to other events in Jersey's arts, business or cultural calendar.

BIO

Martin Toft is an artist and educator who has exhibited and published widely internationally. He works on commissions and long-term independent and collaborative projects and his practice combines documentary and fine art approach to explore social, anthropological and cultural themes, underpinned by archival research. He has exhibited in places such as the House of Commons, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre (London), Watershed Gallery (Bristol), Museet for Fotokunst (Odense, Denmark), Worker's Museum and Øksnehallen (Copenhagen) and recently invited to show work from Masterplan at CAPITAL, Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2019 (Australia) and TAXED TO THE MAX, Noorderlicht International Photography Festival 2019 in Groningen, The Netherlands. In 2018 he was shortlisted in the Professional Discovery category at Sony World Photography Awards and his portrait 'High Net Worth Individual' was selected as a winner in Portrait of Britain 2018 in association with The British Journal of Photography. Recent publications include, *Atlantus* (2015) a multi-functional newspaper in collaboration with Gareth Syvret and Kummer & Herrman which has been exhibited widely in the UK, Europe and USA. In 2016 it was nominated for the Prix du Livre Author Book Award at Les Rencontres de la photographie, Arles. His recent book *Te Ahi Kā - The Fires of Occupation* (2018) was shortlisted for the Kassel Dummy Award 2018 and 2019 Best International Photography Book of the Year PHotoEspaña. It was published under the imprint of Dewi Lewis Publishing and designed by Ania Nafecka-Milach. In 2020 he launched Editions Emile (ED.EM.), a new imprint in collaboration with the Société Jersiaise Photographic Archive. www.martintoft.com



Atlantus, Recto & Verso Galleries, London South Bank University, London, 28 June – 28 Aug 2016



Interventions, Street Photography 1917-2017 - A Tribute to Everyday Life, Copenhagen 2017



Masterplan exhibited as part of Taxed To The Max
Noorderlicht International Photography Festival 2019, Groningen



Te Ahi Ka - The Fires of Occupation,
book published with Dewi Lewis, 2018

— Education

Autodidact photographer
1998-2000 MA (by Project) Art, Design & Media, University of Portsmouth
2002-2003 PGCE Art & Design (14-19), Institute of Education, University of London.

— Exhibitions

2024 The Channel Islands Contemporary Art Show, Guernsey 7 March - 6 April.
2024 The Channel Islands Contemporary Art Show, Capital House, Jersey 18 Jan - 25 Feb.
2022 Exploding Cinema, ArtHouse Jersey, Capital House, 3-4 December
2022 Jersey Summer Exhibition CCA Galleries International, St Helier, 17 June-26 July
2021 Jersey Summer Exhibition CCA Galleries International, St Helier, 18 June-26 July
2020 Spring Into Action, Private & Public Gallery, St Helier, Jersey 1-14 June
2020 ED.EM.01 - La Cotte, launch of Éditions Emile, CCA Galleries International, 25-27 Feb.
2019 Taxed to The Max, Noorderlicht International Photography Festival, Groningen, 5 Oct - 1 Dec
2019 Capital, Ballarat International Foto Biennale, 23 Aug - 20 Oct
2019 Becque á Barbe (solo), CCA Galleries International, 23 May - 10 June
2019 Becque á Barbe, Jersey Museum (La Fête du Jèrriais), 2-5 May
2018 Portrait of Britain Exhibition, JCDecauc screens nationwide in the UK
2018 Jersey Summer Exhibition 2018, CCA Galleries International, St Helier
2018 Atlantus, Unveil'd Presents : Photobook #01, Borough Road Gallery, London
2018 The Seaflower Venture, Sony World Photography Awards, Somerset House London
2017 Interventions at Street Photography 1917-2017 - A Tribute to Everyday Life, Øksnehallen, Copenhagen
2016 Atlantus, (solo), e/uh/-books, South Bank University, London
2016 Atlantus, Papeteries Etienne, Les Nuits de la Photographie, Arles
2016 Atlantus, New Jersey States Museum and States Archive, Trenton
2016 Atlantus, International Finance Centre Jersey, Saint Helier
2015 -16 Quiennessence, The Berni Gallery, Jersey Arts Centre, Saint Helier
2015 Atlantus, Skipton Arts Series Projection Gallery, Saint Helier
2015 Atlantus, Connections: Jersey Festival of Words, Saint Helier
2015 Atlantus, Unseen Festival & Book Fair, Hidden Treasures, Amsterdam
2005 Tableaux Vivants, (solo), Berni Gallery, Jersey Arts Centre, Saint Helier
2002 Kiosk, The Kiosk Project, London
2001 Moving, The Grey Hound Artspace, Lond
2000 Fuzzy Logic, Ether Gallery, Southsea,
2000 Tracing Art, Portland Building Portsmouth
2000 Interventions, (solo), Platformen, Museet For Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark
1999 Sat Ud! Hjæmløs i London, (solo), Worker's Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark
1999 Enter iF You Can (solo), Watershed Gallery, Bristol
1999 Ian Parry Award Exhibition, Tom Blau Gallery, London
1998 Alienation (solo), Shakespeare's Globe,
1998 Smartmove (solo), The House of Commons, London

— Festivals & Fairs

2024 The Seaflower Venture, 21-26 May
2019 Te Ahi Ka Paris Photo, 7-10 Nov
2019 Te Ahi Ka, Hyper COSMOS, Arles, 5 July
2019 Te Ahi Ka, Temple Arles Books, Les Rencontres d'Arles 2019, Arles, 3-4 July
2019 Te Ahi Ka, PHotoEspaña, Madrid, 4 June - 1 Sept
2019 Te Ahi Ka, The Tokyo Art Book Fair
2019 Te Ahi Ka Photo London, (book signing),
2019 Te Ahi Ka, Kassel Dummy Award, Format Festival,
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Book launch, Oratia Books, Auckland, New Zealand
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Lisbon's Photobook Fair
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Book signing, CCA Galleries International, St Helier
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Polycopies, book signing, L'Ascenseur Végétal, Paris
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Paris Photo, book launch Paris
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Zentralbibliothek im Kulturpalast Dresden, Dresden
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Photobook Week Aarhus, 2018 Te Ahi Ka, Internationale Photoszene Köln, Cologne Germany
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Organ Vida - International Photography Festival, Zagreb
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Photography Seminar Litauen, Nida
2018 Te Ahi Ka, FotoLeggendo, Officine Fotografiche Roma, Rome
2018 Te Ahi Ka, IED - Istituto Europeo di Design, Madrid
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Triennial of Photography Hamburg, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Fotobookfestival, documenta-Halle, Kassel
2018 Te Ahi Ka, Photolreland Festival, The Library Project, Dublin
2017 Atlantus, Athens Photo Festival, Greece
2017 Atlantus, PLURAL, EFTI Photography School, Spain
2016 Atlantus, Lisbon Photobook Fair, Portugal
2016 Atlantus, SCAN Tarragona Photography Festival, Spain
2016 Atlantus, Gazebook: Sicily Photobook Festival, Punta Secca
2016 Atlantus, Prix de Livre Author Book Award, Les Rencontres d'Arles
2016 Atlantus, Cosmos Les Rencontres d'Arles, France
2016 Atlantus, First Books and Dummies, Photobook Bristol, Bristol
2016 Atlantus, Indie Photobook Library
2016 Atlantus, Society for Photographic Education, National Conference, Las Vegas
2016 Photobook Melbourne, Memory_Archive, Melbourne
2015 Atlantus, Photobooks of 2015: PhotoBookStore, Pierre Bessard
2015 Atlantus, Best Photobooks of 2015: Photoeye, Alec Soth / LBM
2015 Atlantus, Polycopies and Le Photobookfest, Paris Photo
2015 Atlantus, Virtual Bookshelf JC
2015 Atlantus, Impressions Gallery Photobook Fair, Bradford

— Collections

National Museum of Photography (Denmark)
Museet For Fotokunst (Denmark)
Société Jersiaise Photographic Archive (Jersey)

— Awards

2022 Gomma Photography Grant 2021- Finalist (Becque a Barbe: Face to Face)
2019 Best International Photography Book of the Year PHotoEspaña - Shortlisted Te Ahi Ka
2018 Portrait of Britain - Selected winner (Masterplan)
2018 Kassel Dummy Award - Shortlisted (Te Ahi Ka)
2018 Discovery Category, Sony World Photography Award 2018 - Shortlisted (The Seaflower Venture)
2016 Prix du Livre Author Book Award, Les Rencontres d'Arles -Shortlisted (Atlantus)
1999 Ian Parry Award - Finalist

— Monographs

2018 Te Ahi Ka - The Fires of Occupation, Dewi Lewis Publishing (UK) Oratia Book (NZ)
2015 Atlantus together with writer and photo-archivist, Gareth Syvret, Archisle: Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme. A dual functioning newspaper/ pop-up exhibition designed by Kummer & Herrman.

— Publications

2022 ED.EM.05: Agriculture - looking back to go forward. Éditions Emile photo-zine
2022 ED.EM.04, Albert & Victoria - on the piers, Éditions Emile, photo-zine
2022 Identity & Community, newspaper in collaboration with Hautlieu School A-Level photography students & Jersey Evening Post
2021 ED.EM.03, On the Social Matrix, Éditions Emile, photo-zine
2020 ED.EM.02, Occupation - at leisure 1940-44, Éditions Emile, photo-zine
2021 Love & Rebellion, newspaper in collaboration with Hautlieu School A-Level photography students & Jersey Evening Post
2020 ED.EM.01, La Cotte de Saint-Brélade: at work 1910-2019. Éditions Emile, photo-zine bythe Société Jersiaise Photographic Archive together with Patrick Cahill (Photo-archivist) and Dr Matt Pope (Archaeologist)
2020 Occupation & Liberation, newspaper in collaboration with Hautlieu School A-Level photography students & Jersey Evening Post
2018 Future of St Helier, Masterplan newspaper in collaboration with Hautlieu School A-Level photography students
2018 Portrait of Britain, Hoxton Mini Press
2017 *Street Photography 1917-2017 - A Tribute to Everyday Life, 2017, Catalogue, Øksnehallen, DGI-Byen, Copenhagen.*

— Grants

The Danish Ministry of Culture
The British Council
South West Arts
Government of Jersey
Jersey Development Company
Camerons Ltd, MJP Architects
ArtHouse Jersey, Jersey Arts Trust
Millennium History & Fellowship Grant
Hautlieu Trust
Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui
Creative New Zealand
New Zealand Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund