

Moyra Davey

life without sheets of paper to be scribbled on is masterpiece

11 April – 29 June 2014

Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 6DG

camdenartscentre.org

Press view: Thursday 10 April, 4.30–6.30pm

Free Entry

Canadian artist **Moyra Davey** (b.1958) works across photography, film and writing to create intimate visual essays on time and matter in the everyday, and her filtered relationship to literature. **Moyra Davey** opens at Camden Arts Centre on 11 April and admission is free.

Davey's camera often turns towards the unseen or the overlooked: dust, books, records and piles of newspapers, empty whiskey bottles and coffee cups - the ephemera and discards of daily life. Intuitive and inquisitive, she narrates stories and anecdotes from the books that she has accumulated, interweaving them with her daily life and reflecting on her relationships with her family, literary influences, psychoanalysis, travels and her environment.

The exhibition presents a major recent work exhibited here for the first time in its entirety: *Subway Writers*. This series of 75 photographs of commuters writing on the New York subway draws on the history of mail art. The photographs in the piece, described by Davey as 'mailers' will be folded and posted directly to Camden Arts Centre; creased, stamped and scuffed, they will retain a physical record of their journey.

Davey's extensive body of work inspired by her fascination with Mary Wollstonecraft and the Shelleys, is brought together for the first time, and includes seven series of 'mailers' and her acclaimed film *Les Goddesses*. The film follows Davey in her apartment reciting an essay she wrote about the lives of Wollstonecraft and her daughters, entwining episodes from their untamed youth with recollections of her own sisters and a series of photographs she took of them in the early 1980s. Investigation into text is a central theme in the three other influential video works being shown: *Fifty Minutes*, *My Necropolis* and *My Saints*.

About Moyra Davey

Moyra Davey was born in Canada in 1958 and now lives and works in New York City. She studied at Concordia University in Montreal, the University of California in San Diego and participated in the Whitney Independent Study Program, New York. She has

exhibited widely internationally. Her solo exhibitions include *Hangmen of England* at Tate Liverpool, 2013, *Speaker Receiver* at Kunsthalle, Basel, 2010 and *Long Life Cool White*, 2008 at the Harvard Art Museum. She has also participated in numerous group shows including the Whitney Biennial, New York and *New Photography* at MoMA, New York. Her work is in major public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, MoMA, New York and Tate Modern.

About Camden Arts Centre

Camden Arts Centre is a venue for contemporary visual art and education, where ideas are made visible and people of all ages and abilities can engage in the creative process of making art. Camden Arts Centre's pioneering and varied programme of artist-led courses and other education activities has gained an international reputation as a model of good practice. It is known as a forward-thinking organisation where artists and others can see, make and talk about art.

Opening times:

Tuesday - Sunday: 10am-6pm

Wednesdays late: 10am-9pm

Closed Mondays

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