

WE COULD BE HEROES 6 FEBRUARY - 12 APRIL 2015

8 January 2015

Print Sales' Gallery presents *We Could Be Heroes* a group exhibition which looks at the development of youth culture and the bittersweet rites of passage towards adulthood over the last century. The exhibition features work from master photographers Bruce Davidson, Ed van der Elsken, Bert Hardy, Karen Knorr and Olivier Richon, Jacques Henri Lartigue, Roger Mayne, Chris Steele-Perkins, Anders Petersen, Al Vandenberg, Weegee and Tom Wood.

The term 'teenager' was coined during a new wave of post-war optimism and freedom in which younger generations in Europe and the US seized an opportunity to turn away from tradition and assert new attitudes and subcultures. *We Could Be Heroes* reflects the exuberance, insouciance and rebellious bravado of this new tribe and its predecessors.

In 1959 legendary Magnum photographer **Bruce Davidson** (b. 1933, USA) embedded himself among members of the Brooklyn gang the Jokers. He spent eleven months producing one of the first full-immersion photo essays about an American youth subculture. *Brooklyn Gang* features everything from drinking in back alleys, moments of rage, make-out sessions in the backs of cars and liaisons under the Coney Island boardwalk.

Chris Steele-Perkins' (b. 1947, Myanmar) iconic series *The Teds* looks at Teddy Boy culture of the 1950s in Britain and its revival in the 1970s. His photographs showcase the group's distinctive style through rough and ready portraits alongside more naturalistic images of Teddy boy meetings, weddings and dances.

Love on the Left Bank by **Ed van der Elsken** (1925 - 1990, Netherlands) captured the reckless, carefree, decadent and hedonistic lifestyle of Parisian bohemia in the 1950s.

Anders Petersen's (b. 1944, Sweden) work often focuses on the people living at the margins of society. This exhibition includes images from his seminal project *Café Lehmitz* (1978) featuring late-night regulars in the Hamburg bar alongside pictures from his specially commissioned publication *Soho* (2012) documenting the streets, pubs, cafes and private homes of residents of the famous London district.

Photographers **Karen Knorr** (b. 1954, Germany) and **Olivier Richon's** (b. 1956, Switzerland) *Punk* (1977) capture London's punk scene in a series of posed portraits taken in Covent Garden's Roxy Club and the Global Village in Charing Cross. Staying away from candid photography Knorr and Richon instead chose to directly confront their subjects, emphasising punk's symbolism and making it more readable to viewers.

Roger Mayne's (1929 - 2014, UK) photographs of west London street scenes in the 1950s depicted members of the first generation to be identified as 'teenagers'. The *W10* (1956 - 1961) series, shot mainly in Southam Street in London - later demolished as part of a slum clearance programme - contrasted young people's exuberance with the urban dereliction they inhabited.

The exhibition also includes works by **Bert Hardy, Jacques Henri Lartigue, Al Vandenberg, Weegee and Tom Wood.**

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We Could Be Heroes features over 20 pieces with prices starting from £750 + VAT. Additional works from each of the participating artists are also available on request.

We Could Be Heroes is the inaugural exhibition in the newly expanded Print Sales Gallery, providing an enhanced space to reflect the breadth of represented photographers and their work.

Notes for Editors

Print Sales' Gallery

Print Sales has been an integral part of The Photographers' Gallery since its opening in 1971, supporting both the organisation and its photographers through the sale of contemporary, modern, vintage, rare and limited edition fine art prints.

Each year Print Sales stages five unique selling exhibitions. These highlight the works of our represented photographers through carefully curated presentations that allow visitors to familiarise themselves with the photographer(s) work in an expert environment, where a dedicated team can offer advice to first-time/new collectors, major buyers, corporate collections or public institutions.

We currently represent thirty-five British and International photographers including such acclaimed photographers and estates as Sebastiao Salgado, Elliott Erwitt and Jacques Henri Lartigue.

We also offer rare buying opportunities through our special *Gallery Editions* scheme, whereby world-renowned photographers and artists donate a limited edition print to help support The Photographers' Gallery.

All profits from Print Sales directly support The Photographers' Gallery public programme and further allow us to support younger emerging artists at crucial stages of their careers.

To see the full list of represented photographers and prints available for purchase please visit www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor Information

Opening times: Monday - Saturday, 10:00 - 18:00, Thursdays, 10:00 - 20:00,

Sunday 11:30 - 18:00. Admission: Free

Address: 16-18 Ramillies Street, London W1F 7LW

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THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALJERY

PRESS IMAGES

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Image 1
Al Vandenberg
Untitled from the series *On a Good Day*, 1975 -1980
© Al Vandenberg
Courtesy of Eric Franck Fine Art



Image 2
Weegee
Lovers in 3D glasses in the Palace Theatre, 1945
© Weegee
Courtesy of Side Gallery



Image 3
Bruce Davidson
Brooklyn Gang, NYC, 1959
© Bruce Davidson
Courtesy of Howard Greenberg Gallery



Image 4
Chris Steele-Perkins
Red Deer, Croydon, 1976
© Chris Steele Perkins / Magnum Photos



Image 5
Karen Knorr and Olivier Richon
Untitled from the series *Punks*, 1967 -1977
© Karen Knorr and Olivier Richon
Courtesy of Eric Franck Fine Art



Image 6
Ed van der Elsken
Vali Myers from the series *Love on the Left Bank*, Paris
1950
© Ed van der Elsken
Courtesy of The Photographers' Gallery



Image 7
Roger Mayne
Footballer and Shadow, 1956
© Roger Mayne
Courtesy of The Estate of Roger Mayne/ Bernard
Quaritch



Image 8
Anders Petersen
Café Lehmitz, 1967 - 1970
© Anders Petersen
Courtesy of The Photographers' Gallery

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Contact Inbal Mizrahi on +44 (0)20 7087 9333 or inbal.mizarhi@tpg.org.uk**

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