



# CHRONICLE

1979 DEBBIE BAKER

1980-81 WILLIAM MESSER

# ffotogallery

oriol ffotograffeg,  
Caerdydd



1978

1983-88 SUSAN BEARDMORE

1982-83 ROBERT GREETHAM

1988 CHRISTOPHER COPPOCK



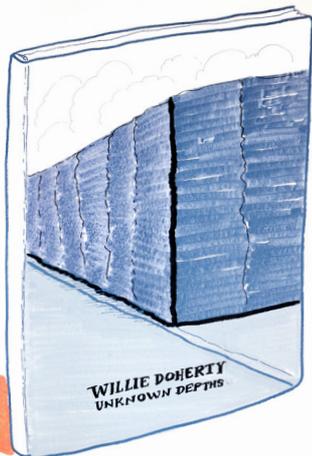
1981



1984 THE VALLEYS PROJECT



2001 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME



1990 THE FIRST PUBLICATION



1999

JUST ANOTHER DAY

CHRONICLE



# CHRONICLE

ffotogallery

Celebrating 40  
years in 2018

Dathlu 40  
mlynedd yn  
2018

# ffotogallery

## CHRONICLE

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# FOREWORD / RHAGAIR

In September 1978, the first gallery in Wales dedicated to photography opened in Charles Street, Cardiff, under the name Yr Oriol Ffotograffeg. Changing its name to Ffotogallery in 1981, the organisation continues to thrive forty years on and is currently establishing a new city centre base in Cardiff.

*Chronicle* draws on archival and contemporary material to tell the story of how Ffotogallery developed over those forty years, against the backdrop of seismic changes in the nature and role of photography in society and the rise of digital culture. From the beginning, Ffotogallery has given early exposure for photographers and artists such as Martin Parr, Paul Graham, Catherine Yass, Helen Sear and Bedwyr Williams who went on to enjoy international success. The organisation remains committed to nurturing emerging talent and providing mid-career opportunities for photographers and lens-based artists. *Chronicle* highlights Ffotogallery's longstanding focus on the South Wales Valleys and a series of commissions and exhibitions that documented the Valleys in various aspects during a period of rapid transition. *Chronicle* also celebrates Ffotogallery's international engagement, realised through publications and exhibitions of work from five continents, and initiatives such as European Prospects, Wales in Venice 2015, the Dreamtigers India-Wales project, and three editions

Ym mis Medi 1978, agorodd oriel gyntaf Cymru ar gyfer ffotograffiaeth yn benodol yn Heol Charles, Caerdydd, o dan yr enw Yr Oriol Ffotograffeg. Gan newid ei henw i Ffotogallery ym 1981, mae'n dal i ffynnu ddeugain mlynedd yn ddiweddarach ac mae wrthi bellach yn sefydlu canolfan newydd yng nghanol dinas Caerdydd.

Mae *Chronicle* yn defnyddio deunydd archifol a chyfoes i adrodd sut y datblygodd Ffotogallery dros y deugain mlynedd hwnnw, yn erbyn cefnlen o newidiadau seismig yn natur a swyddogaeth ffotograffiaeth mewn cymdeithas, a thwf y diwylliant digidol. O'r cychwyn cyntaf, rhoddodd Ffotogallery sylw yn gynnar yn eu gyrfaedd i artistiaid fel Martin Parr, Paul Graham, Catherine Yass, Helen Sear a Bedwyr Williams sydd wedi mynd ymlaen i fwynhau llwyddiant rhyngwladol. Mae'r sefydliad yn parhau ag ymrwymiad i feithrin doniau sy'n dod i'r amlwg a chynnig cyfleoedd canol-gyrfa i ffotograffwyr ac artistiaid yn seiliedig ar lens. Mae *Chronicle* yn pwysleisio ffocws Ffotogallery dros gyfnod maith ar gymoedd de Cymru, a chyfres o gomisiynau ac arddangosfeydd yn dogfennu gwahanol agweddau ar y cymoedd yn ystod cyfnod o drawsnewid carlamus. Mae *Chronicle* hefyd yn dathlu ymgysylltiad rhyngwladol Ffotogallery, ar ffurf cyhoeddiadau ac arddangosfeydd o waith o bum cyfandir, a mentrau fel Rhagolygon Ewropeaidd, Cymru yn Fenis 2015,

of the biennial Diffusion: Cardiff International Festival of Photography.

It shows how over four decades Ffotogallery has played a pivotal role in developing a vibrant and contemporary photographic culture in Wales and internationally through exhibitions and festivals, extensive print and online publishing activities, and pioneering education and outreach work that offers opportunities for creative engagement for a wide cross-section of society.

project Dreamtigers India-Cymru, a thri rhifyn o'r ŵyl ddwy-flynyddol, Diffusion: Gŵyl Ffotograffiaeth Ryngwladol Caerdydd.

Dengys fel y mae Ffotogallery, dros bedwar degawd, wedi chwarae rhan ganolog mewn datblygu diwylliant ffotograffig bywiog a chyfoes yng Nghymru ac yn rhyngwladol trwy arddangosfeydd a gwyliau, gweithgareddau cyhoeddi print ac ar-lein helaeth, a gwaith addysgu a chymunedol arloesol sy'n cynnig cyfleoedd i drawstoriad eang o gymdeithas i ymgysylltu'n greadigol.

# OUR STORY / EIN STORI

The early 1970s saw a resurgence of interest in photography across the United Kingdom, and the establishment of a small number of independent galleries dedicated to photography including The Photographers Gallery and Camerawork in London, Stills in Edinburgh, Impressions in York, Open Eye in Liverpool and Side Gallery in Newcastle.

With the School of Documentary Photography at Gwent College of Higher Education in Newport being set up by Magnum photographer David Hurn in 1973, momentum was building for a specialist photography gallery to be established in Wales exhibiting work on a regular basis. In early 1978, the artist and academic Alistair Crawford published an article in Planet magazine calling for a new gallery or museum that would "originate and travel exhibitions both within and outside Wales....at the same time it should acquire, in a systematic way, a collection of the best contemporary photography from Welsh photographers working outside Wales and from photographers working within Wales".

During 1977 and 1978 David Hurn helped organise a series of lectures on photography through the Extra Mural Department of University College, Cardiff in collaboration with the Welsh Arts Council. Sir Tom Hopkinson, one time editor of Picture Post, was the Director of the Centre for Journalism Studies at University College, Cardiff and a key advocate

Yn yr 1970au cynnar, cafwyd ton newydd o ddiddordeb mewn ffotograffiaeth ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig, a sefydlwyd nifer fechan o orielau annibynnol yn arbennig ar gyfer ffotograffau, yn cynnwys The Photographers Gallery a Camerawork yn Llundain, Stills yng Nghaeredin, Impressions yn Efrog, Open Eye yn Lerpwl a Side Gallery yn Newcastle.

Pan sefydlwyd yr Ysgol Ffotograffiaeth Ddogfennol yng Ngholeg Addysg Uwch Gwent yng Nghasnewydd gan y ffotograffydd Magnum, David Hurn, yn 1973, roedd y momentwm yn tyfu ar gyfer sefydlu oriel ffotograffiaeth arbenigol yng Nghymru i arddangos gwaith yn rheolaidd. Yn gynnar yn 1978, cyhoeddodd yr artist a'r academydd Alistair Crawford erthygl yn y cylchgrawn Planet yn galw am oriel neu amgueddfa newydd a fyddai'n "dangos arddangosfeydd gwreiddiol a theithiol yng Nghymru a thu allan i Gymru....ar yr un pryd dylai gael gafael, mewn ffordd systematig, ar gasgliad o'r ffotograffau cyfoes gorau gan ffotograffwyr o Gymru sy'n gweithio tu allan i Gymru ac hefyd gan ffotograffwyr sy'n gweithio yng Nghymru".

Yn ystod 1977 a 1978 bu David Hurn yn helpu i drefnu cyfres o ddarlithoedd ar ffotograffiaeth drwy Adran Efyrdiau Allanol Coleg Prifysgol Caerdydd mewn cydweithrediad â Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Roedd Syr Tom Hopkinson, cyn-olygydd Picture Post, yn Gyfarwyddwr ar y Ganolfan Astudiaethau Newyddiaduriaeth

for photography in Wales at the time. The lectures drew a large audience with guest speakers including Bert Hardy and Don McCullin. As a direct result of the interest generated by the lecture series, in May some fifty people connected with photography came together in Cardiff to discuss the establishment of a permanent centre for photography in Wales, and four months later that vision became a reality.

On 4 September 1978, the first gallery in Wales dedicated to photography opened in Charles Street, Cardiff, under the name Yr Oriol Ffotograffeg, Caerdydd (The Photographic Gallery, Cardiff). Fittingly, the gallery's inaugural exhibition was *Collected Photographs – Photographs from the collection of David Hurn*.

Largely run by volunteers, from that September onwards a diverse and ambitious exhibition programme was initiated with a combination of originated and hired-in exhibitions. As well as showing the work of internationally respected photographers such as Diane Arbus, Bill Brandt, William Klein and Raymond Moore, the gallery mounted exhibitions by emergent young photographers such as Martin Parr, Tish Murtha and Brian Griffin.

Yr Oriol Ffotograffeg's first Director, Deborah Baker, was appointed in January 1979, but left the gallery at the end of that year to become Photographic Fellow in Sheffield. Bill Messer, an MFA

yng Ngholeg Prifysgol Caerdydd ac roedd yn eiriolwr allweddol dros ffotograffiaeth yng Nghymru ar y pryd. Denodd y darlithoedd gynulleidfa fawr gyda siaradwyr gwadd megis Bert Hardy a Don McCullin. O ganlyniad uniongyrchol i'r diddordeb a sbardunwyd gan y gyfres hon o ddarlithoedd, ym mis Mai daeth oddeutu hanner cant o bobl oedd â chysylltiad â ffotograffiaeth at ei gilydd yng Nghaerdydd i drafod sefydlu canolfan barhaol ar gyfer ffotograffiaeth yng Nghymru, a phedwar mis yn ddiweddarach gwiredwyd y freuddwyd.

Ar 4 Medi 1978, agorodd yr oriel gyntaf yng Nghymru oedd wedi'i hymroddi i ffotograffiaeth yn Stryd Charles, Caerdydd, o dan yr enw Yr Oriol Ffotograffeg, Caerdydd. Yn briodol iawn, arddangosfa agoriadol yr oriel oedd *Collected Photographs – Photographs from the collection of David Hurn*.

O'r mis Medi hwnnw ymlaen, cychwynwyd rhaglen arddangos uchelgeisiol ac amrywiol a redwyd yn bennaf gan wirfoddolwyr gyda chyfuniad o arddangosfeydd gwreiddiol a rhai a brynwyd i mewn. Yn ogystal â dangos gwaith ffotograffwyr oedd yn ennyn parch rhyngwladol megis Diane Arbus, Bill Brandt, William Klein a Raymond Moore, trefnodd yr oriel arddangosfeydd gan ffotograffwyr ifanc oedd yn dechrau dod i'r amlwg megis Martin Parr, Tish Murtha a Brian Griffin.

Penodwyd Cyfarwyddwr cyntaf Yr Oriol Ffotograffeg, Deborah



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Photographs by Lluniau gan

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# WILLIAM KLEIN

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THE PHOTOGRAPHIC  
GALLERY, CARDIFF  
41, Charles Street

YR ORIEL  
FFOTOGRAFFEG, CAERDYDD  
41, Heol Siarl

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October 30 - November 25

Hydref 30 - Tachwedd 25

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Monday - Friday 12.30 - 2.00  
Saturday 10.00 - 5.00

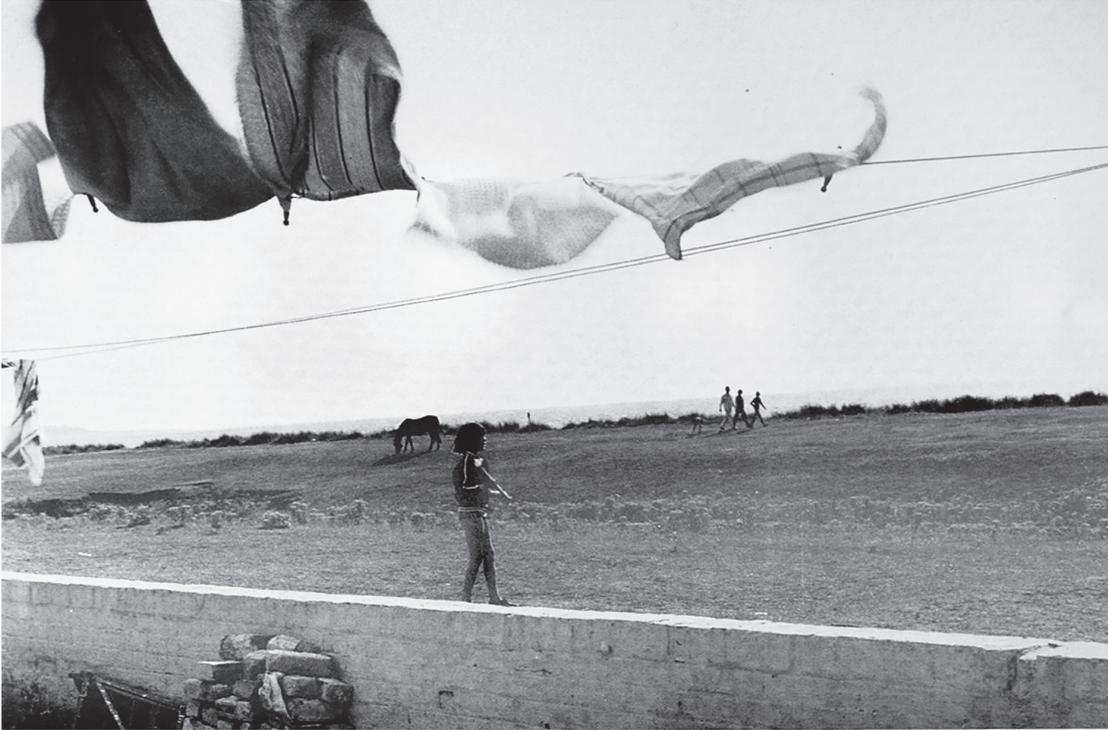
Llun - Gwener 12.30 - 2.00  
Sadwrn 10.00 - 5.00

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With the support of the Welsh Arts Council

Gyda chymorth Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru

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Photographs by Lluniau gan

# *Raymond Moore*

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC  
GALLERY, CARDIFF  
41, Charles Street

YR ORIEL  
FFOTOGRAFFEG, CAERDYDD  
41, Heol Siarl

November 28 - December 20

Tachwedd 28 - Rhagfyr 20

Monday-Friday 12.30-2.00  
Saturday 10.00-5.00

Llun-Gwener 12.30-2.00  
Sadwrn 10.00-5.00

With the support of the Welsh Arts Council

Gyda chymorth Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru

graduate of San Francisco Art Institute, was appointed in early 1980 as her successor.

The gallery's wide-ranging exhibition programme continued to grow its reputation, both in Wales and internationally. It originated a major touring exhibition of the *Black Series/Recent Nudes* by the renowned American photographer Ralph Gibson, and in December 1980 the gallery hosted an extensive survey of *New Spanish Photography* in partnership with the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education.

In January 1981 Bill Messer launched an ambitious and at times controversial yearlong series of exhibitions examining aspects of European photography. Continental Enquiries aimed to provide a comprehensive survey of current trends in photography from across Europe, and the series included *Wilhelm Schurmann – A Retrospective*, *The Voyage of Bernard Plossu 1965 – 1981*, *Northern Lights* – two exhibitions examining contemporary Norwegian and Swedish photography, *New German Photography* and *The Womenshow*, featuring work by Andre Gelpke, Diana Blok and Marlo Broekmans.

Despite the achievements of the organisation over the previous year – an ambitious programme, expanded premises and international reputation – in a formal review conducted in summer 1981, the Welsh Arts Council expressed concern about the nature of the exhibition programme in

Baker, ym mis Ionawr 1979, ond gadawodd hithau'r oriel ddiwedd y flwyddyn honno i ddod yn Gymrodor Ffotograffig yn Sheffield. Penodwyd Bill Messer, gŵr graddedig gyda Meistr mewn Celfyddyd Gain o'r San Francisco Art Institute, yn olynydd iddi yn fuan yn 1980.

Parhaodd rhaglen arddangosfeydd hynod amrywiol yr oriel i fagu enw da, yng Nghymru ac yn rhyngwladol. Cychwynnodd yr arddangosfa deithiol fawr y *Black Series/Recent Nudes* gan y ffotograffydd Americanaidd adnabyddus Ralph Gibson, ac ym mis Rhagfyr 1980 cynhaliodd yr oriel arolwg estynedig o *New Spanish Photography* mewn partneriaeth ag Athrofa Addysg Uwch De Morgannwg.

Ym mis Ionawr 1981 lansiodd Bill Messer flwyddyn gyfan o arddangosfeydd uchelgeisiol, oedd yn ddadleuol ar brydiau, yn ymchwilio agweddau o ffotograffiaeth Ewropeaidd. Nod Continental Enquiries oedd gwneud arolwg cynhwysfawr o'r patrymau ar y pryd mewn ffotograffiaeth ledled Ewrop, ac roedd y gyfres yn cynnwys *Wilhelm Schurmann – A Retrospective*, *The Voyage of Bernard Plossu 1965 – 1981*, *Northern Lights* – dwy arddangosfa oedd yn archwilio ffotograffiaeth gyfoes o Norwy a Sweden, *New German Photography* a *The Womenshow*, oedd yn dangos gwaith gan Andre Gelpke, Diana Blok a Marlo Broekmans.

Er bod y sefydliad wedi gweld llwyddiannau yn ystod y flwyddyn flaenorol – rhaglen uchelgeisiol, safle

# Ralph Gibson



## **Y Gyfres Ddu/ Noethluniau Diweddar**

Yr Oriel Ffotograffeg,  
41 Heol Siarl, Caerdydd  
13 Mehefin-12 Gorffennaf 1980

Dydd Mawrth-Dydd Gwener 12.30-4pm.  
Dydd Sadwrn 10am.-5pm.

## **The Black Series/ Recent Nudes**

The Photographic Gallery,  
41 Charles Street, Cardiff  
13 June-12 July 1980

Tuesday-Friday 12.30-4pm.  
Saturday 10am.-5pm.

Arddangosfa a drefnwyd gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru  
at Oriel Ffotograffeg, Caerdydd

Exhibition organised by The Welsh Arts Council  
and The Photographic Gallery, Cardiff