

COOMBS QUICKLY REVEALS HIMSELF AS A
LATER-DAY JOSEPH CORNELL, CAUGHT UP
IN A PRODUCTIVE NOSTALGIA FOR THE
MATERIALITY OF SURREALIST PRACTICE
Dr Catriona McAra

NEIL COOMBS

THE PHANTOMS OF SURREALISM

AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOMONTAGE WORK

Showing at Oriel Colwyn
22 March – 16 May 2013

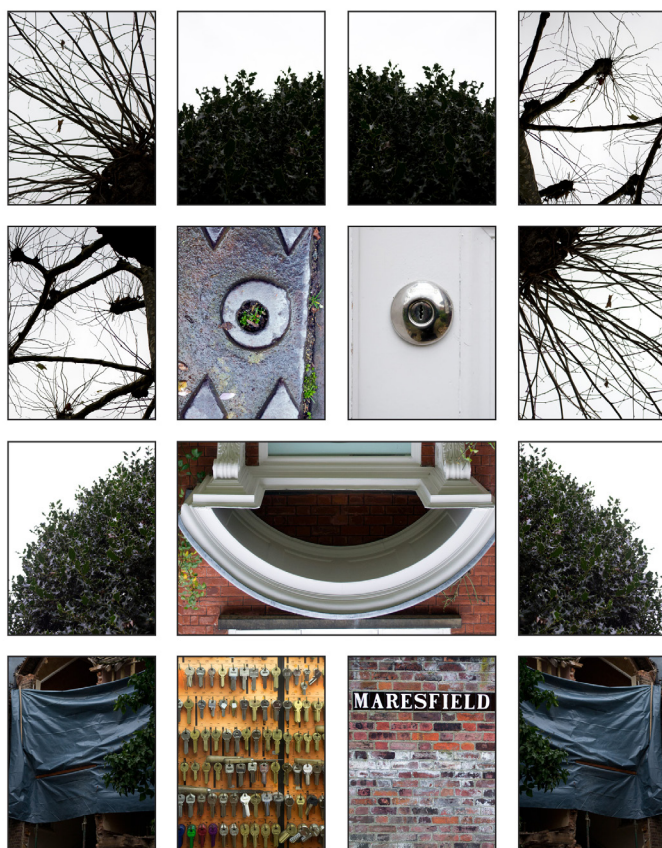
Oriel Colwyn is pleased to present The Phantoms of Surrealism, a solo exhibition of new work by Neil Coombs. The exhibition is the result of a year-long project carried out with the support of the Arts Council Wales. Coombs has travelled across the UK seeking out locations that have a historical connection with British Surrealism. At each location, he has taken a series of photographs of landscapes and details that he has encountered. These photographs have been arranged within a rigid repetitive matrix to form a series of faces, one from each location.

Neil Coombs is an artist and writer, originally from London and currently based in Wales who has exhibited photographic, installation and multimedia work in galleries and festivals both nationally and internationally. His work was recently included in group shows in Turkey, Germany and USA. Coombs is also founder and editor of the surrealist journal *Patricide*.

The exhibition was originally shown at Bodelwyddan Castle in 2012 where it also included collage and photographic work alongside some examples of recent collaborative projects that Coombs has been involved with or curated. One of the Phantom works, *The Phantom of Worktown*, has been acquired for the permanent collection of Bolton Art gallery where it now hangs.

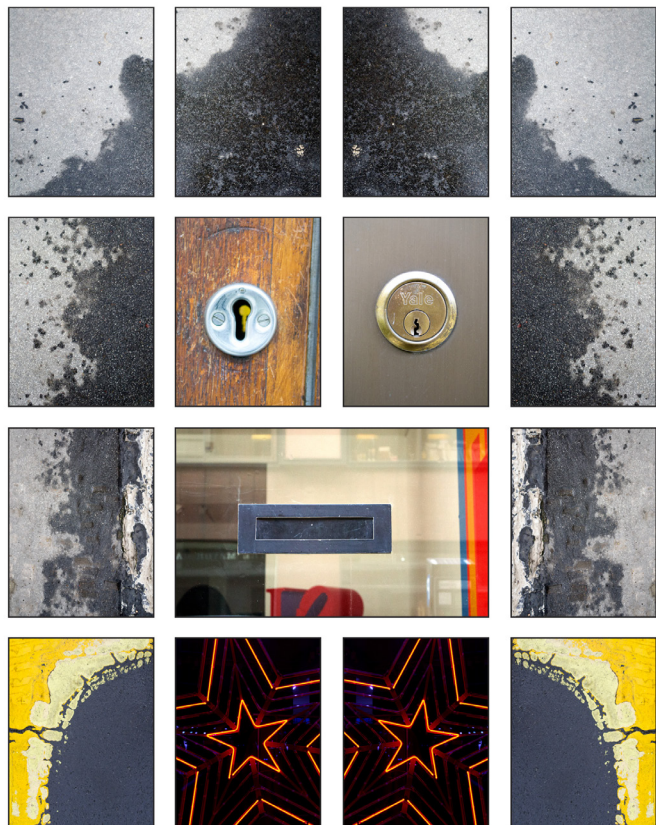
THE PHANTOMS, LIKE SOME EASTER ISLAND STATUES FOR THE SO-CALLED MODERN WORLD, MUTE, TERRIBLE REMNANTS HERALDING A MESSAGE EVEN THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO UTTER, STAND AS SENTINELS FOR THE DISINTEGRATION OF OUR WORLD VIEW

Dr. Krzysztof Fijalkowski

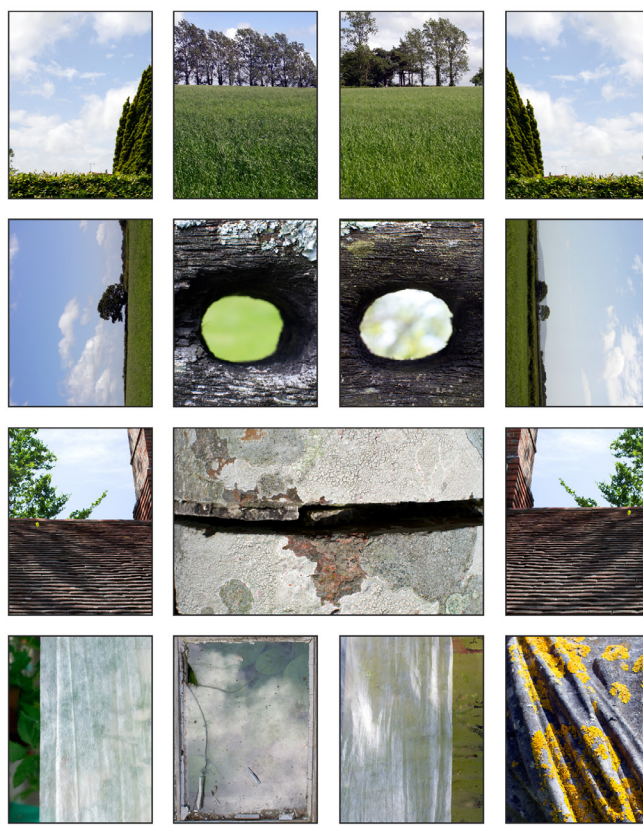


The Freudian Phantom (2012)
digital print on aluminum 104 x 84 cm





The Phantom of Cork Street (2012)
digital print on aluminum 104 x 84 cm



The Phantom of Farley Farm (2012)
digital print on aluminum 104 x 84 cm

Contact Details

Contact Neil Coombs directly for more information:
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For more information on the Phantom Project, visit
the blog at: <http://surrealphantom.wordpress.com>

The gallery is open most weekdays from 10am
There is no admission charge to visit the exhibition

Oriel Colwyn, Upstairs at Theatr Colwyn,
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*Surreal Phantoms Trading
Cards* (2012)
9 x 6 cm
(from a set of 25)

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Arts Council of Wales

Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
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The National Lottery
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Cofrestrwyd gan
Y Loteri Genedlaethol
Welsh Government Lottery



The Phantom of Plas Newydd
Phantom Power: H.C. Paget, R. Whistler
Wooden Leg