

PRESS RELEASE: Southampton Pride of Place Project

1st November - 30th November 2016

Launch event: Thursday 3rd November 2016, 5pm - 8pm

Southampton Pride of Place Project exhibition: 108 East Street, Southampton SO14 3HD (next to Perrys art shop)

What does Southampton mean to you? Can you pass the River Test? How's the view from Benny Hill? How many sides has the Polygon? Is Woolston wonderful? Are you in love with Shirley? What would make a great souvenir of Southampton? What hidden or unusual attractions would you show visitors?

To complement their major touring exhibition, **extra{ordinary} - Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery**, at **Solent Showcase, Southampton**, artists **Jan Williams** and **Chris Teasdale** of **The Caravan Gallery** are transforming an empty shop at **108 East Street, Southampton** into a dynamic art exhibition-cum-alternative visitor information centre exploring Southampton in all its multifaceted glory. They need your help to create a warts and all celebration of the city of Southampton.

Pride of Place Projects - participatory exhibitions celebrating local distinctiveness

The Southampton Pride of Place Project gives visitors an opportunity to define where they live - and how they live - in the twenty-first century, through research conducted in the spirit of 'Mass Observation'. The exhibition opens with photos of Southampton by The Caravan Gallery as a catalyst to get people talking. Winning images from an **open submission photography competition** focusing on Southampton also forms part of the opening display with prizes donated by The Caravan Gallery and local businesses. The rest of the exhibition is being created by members of the public.

Local residents and visitors are invited to contribute by sharing their views and using their creative talents - writing, photography, drawing, video, sculpture, singing, knitting, whatever - to help produce a wonderfully anarchic and refreshingly honest exhibition-cum-alternative-tourist-information-centre celebrating the city and its character. The exhibition grows day by day as visitors add their own observations, little known facts and creations to **The People's Map** and **The People's Wall**. An unusually entertaining survey gives residents and visitors from elsewhere a chance to say what they think about Southampton past present and future. Art materials and inspiration are available for anyone who wants to get creative.

Jan and Chris say '**This is a great opportunity for the people of Southampton to show off their local knowledge and creativity**. Everyone is welcome to participate - individual artists, writers and musicians, schools, colleges, arts, crafts and community groups, photography and local history societies, sports associations, gardening clubs, writers and musicians, local food producers, shoppers, road sweepers, civil servants etc. We want to know about your Southampton!'

The people of Southampton are invited to bring along their Southampton-related creations and items for possible inclusion in the exhibition which is curated by The Caravan Gallery and grows day by day throughout November. Contributions might include 2D and 3D artworks, photos, films, scrapbooks, old postcards, books and brochures, souvenirs and memorabilia. Items may be scanned and returned or kept until the end of the exhibition. Alternatively they can be donated to The Caravan Gallery archive. Some of the material collected will appear in a **commemorative publication** produced at a later date. The Southampton Pride of Place Project opens with a **launch event on Thursday 3rd November 2016** and ends with a **closing celebration on Wednesday 30th November 2016** where participants and visitors can come together to admire the finished display.

The Caravan Gallery's citywide project in Southampton consists of three interconnected strands:



extra{ordinary}

Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery

Solent Showcase, Southampton: 21st October - 1st December 2016

Preview: Thursday 20th October 2016, 6pm - 9pm

Open: Monday to Friday - 11am to 6pm; Saturday - 11am to 5pm

Closed: Sundays

A national touring exhibition of over one hundred colour photographs made over the last fifteen years. Astutely observed, thought provoking and sometimes hilarious, these images focus on the extraordinary details of everyday life, and constitute an extraordinary record of social change since the millennium. A full colour hardback publication accompanies the exhibition.



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Closing celebration: Wednesday 30th November 2016, 5pm - 8pm

The **Southampton Pride of Place Project** is an alternative visitor information centre where people can share stories, images, words and opinions about the city and contribute to an ever growing exhibition about Southampton. Artists Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale of The Caravan Gallery set up Pride of Place Projects so that people from all walks of life can learn from each other in a friendly creative environment. Familiar places take on a new allure as overlooked details come to light and people connect with each other and their surroundings.



Southampton Caravan Gallery Tour

During October and November 2016 The Caravan Gallery will visit six sites across the city to publicise **extra{ordinary} - Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery**, and to encourage people to participate in the **Southampton Pride of Place Project**. The exhibition inside this unique mobile gallery will include photographs from all over Britain as well as Southampton.

Saturday 15th October, 3pm - 7pm: Guildhall Square with ArtCarPark / **Tuesday 18th October, 10am**

- 4pm: Monty's Community Hub, Sholing / **Thursday 27th October, 10am - 4pm:** Shirley precinct /

Saturday 29th October, 10am - 4pm: Kingsland Square, St Mary St / **Tuesday 8th November, 10am -**

4pm: Portsmouth Rd, Woolston / **Wednesday 16th November, 10am - 4pm:** Burgess Rd by University of Southampton campus

Please check website and social media for additional dates and further details.

LISTINGS INFORMATION:

Southampton Pride of Place Project

108 East Street, Southampton SO14 3HD (next to Perrys art shop)

1st November - 30th November 2016

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. Closed on Sunday & Monday.

Launch event: Thursday 3rd November 2016, 5pm - 8pm

Closing celebration: Wednesday 30th November 2016, 5pm - 8pm

extra{ordinary} - Photographs of Britain by The Caravan Gallery

Exhibition: 21st October - 1st December 2016

Preview: Thursday 20th October 2016, 6pm - 9pm

Solent Showcase, Sir James Matthews Building, Above Bar, Southampton SO14 7NN

Tel: +44 (0)23 8001 2621

www.solent.ac.uk/showcase

Southampton Caravan Gallery Tour

The Caravan Gallery, a unique gallery in a caravan, will visit six sites across the city with an exhibition of photos from all over Britain as well as Southampton. Please check local press, The Caravan Gallery website, Facebook and Twitter for details of the tour and for Pride of Place Project updates.

www.thecaravangallery.photography

Facebook: [The Caravan Gallery](#)

Twitter: [@caravangallery](#)

Instagram: [the_caravan_gallery](#)

[#Southampton](#)

[#PrideofPlaceProject](#)

Southampton PoPP Supporters' Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/618155718341604/

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Caravan Gallery is a collaboration between artists and photographers Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale, who use photography to document what they call the 'reality and surreality' of everyday life. Founded in 2000, The Caravan Gallery is a mobile exhibition space and itinerant social club on wheels housed in a recently reincarnated 1969 mustard coloured caravan. The venue has travelled thousands of miles taking contemporary art to unexpected locations and tens of thousands of people in Britain and abroad.

Previous exhibitions include: *Kaunas Photo Festival / Flâneur* – new urban narratives, Kaunas, Lithuania; *Merseystyle*, Museum of Liverpool; *Watch This Space*, National Theatre, London; *Festival 2014*, Glasgow with Street Level Photoworks; *LOOK/13* and *FORMAT* photography festivals; the Bluecoat during *Liverpool Biennial*; *Pride of Place Projects* in Merseyside, Lytham St Annes, Oxford, Guernsey, Belgium and Portsmouth; *The Condition of England*, NGCA; *Is Britain Great?*, Aspex, Portsmouth and Paul Smith Space, Tokyo.

www.thecaravangallery.photography

QUOTES

“With The Caravan Gallery there is this thing that is very familiar to me. It’s about seeing humour, seeing quirkiness, seeing strangeness in everyday life. It’s not at all contrived, it’s just ‘click’, got it! I like that.”

Sir Paul Smith, Fashion designer

“Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale spend their time sifting rubbish in the cultural dustbin of modern Britain. This is noticing on an epic scale, poignant and melancholic. Out of it they make art and laughter, a rare combination. Long live The Caravan Gallery!”

Daniel Meadows of the Free Photographic Omnibus

“Thank you for introducing us to ourselves.”

Visitor to Bradford Pride of Place Project

THE CARAVAN GALLERY PRIDE OF PLACE PROJECT TOUR

The Southampton Pride of Place Project is the sixth instalment of a national tour across the length and breadth of the UK throughout 2015 and 2016, in partnership with the following galleries and museums: Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland; Impressions Gallery, Bradford; Ffotogallery’s Diffusion Festival, Cardiff; Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art; Museum of Lancashire, Preston; Solent Showcase, Southampton.



Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale

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PRESS IMAGES

To request high resolution press images please contact us at:
admin@thecaravangallery.photography



City walls, Southampton 2016



England House (World Cup 06), Southampton



K6 Gallery, Southampton 2016



The Caravan Gallery at the Bluecoat, Liverpool



Brutal balcony baskets, Southampton 2016



Sunderland Pride of Place Project pop-up exhibition in full swing showing many of the artworks, artefacts, photographs and creations donated by the public.



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