

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



NEWSLETTER THREE: December, 2014



Supported using public funding by
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Touring Exhibition

After a hugely successful visit to the Science Museum in London, the Open for Business tour has moved to the University of South Wales, Newport City Campus until 2 January 2015. Next stop is Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery, from 17 January to 12 March 2015.

Ben Russell, curator of mechanical engineering at the Science Museum, said the exhibition gave him hope.

"People often say to me that Britain makes nothing any more – this exhibition gives the lie to that. The skills are still here, and the imagination. Britain cannot compete with China or the Far East in mass manufacturing, but oriental workers are not going to accept such low wages for ever: the tide could turn. I'm very upbeat."



Launch event at Science Museum: Chris, David, Mark, Peter. Photo credit: Science Museum

"The best thing about Bendiksen's display is the inclusion of video playing in five LCD monitors which look exactly like the black picture frames that house his stills. I've seen this done many times before but it works particularly well here, these small snatches of video are beautifully shot and integrate rather seamlessly into the larger display of photographs."

Lewis Bush, Disphotic blog

For the full blog see:
<http://www.disphotic.com/review>



Exhibition at Science Museum, London. Photo credit: Science Museum

Spotlight on Bruce Gilden



Bruce Gilden at Vauxhall. Photo credit: Sarah Lloyd

Bruce Gilden visited London manufacturers. He says:

"Since I'm used to working on commissions, I can adapt quickly to new environments, work very hard and very fast. To work on this project, where I had to realise a number of images in a short period of time, I decided to do colour digital photography. This way I can see the pictures when I'm taking them, which is very important."

"My approach is to combine portraits of workers with surreal abstract photographs of the environment in order to bring my personal vision of the place, add another dimension to the traditional setting, and give a new life to customary objects."

- Bruce Gilden, Magnum Photographer

Spotlight on David Hurn

David Hurn was commissioned to photograph manufacturing companies in Wales. He says:

"My prime interest is in people or rather the way people react with people or to their environment. I worked with people and their activities where everyone is highly skilled and therefore love their jobs – perhaps a happy workforce means quality goods. All of them are very successful businesses."

I have mainly simply observed, but have included a few semi-posed portraits."

- David Hurn, Magnum Photographer



David Hurn in the automated sock room, Corgi Hosiery.
Photo credit: Kate Mercer

Press and Editorial

The exhibition has featured in broadsheet newspapers such as The Guardian, listings such as Culture24, 'The Manufacturer' website and various photography blogs.

In the December issue of *The British Journal of Photography* there was an article on 'The Visual Transformation of FT Weekend Magazine,' featuring the cover of the Open for Business Photography Special 2014.



Launch event at University of South Wales, Newport

A fantastic celebration of British manufacturing and photography, attended by Magnum photographer, David Hurn; and representatives from the manufacturing companies he visited in Wales, including milliner Alison Tod and BCB International; and Dame Rosemary Butler.



Launch event at University of South Wales, Newport.
Photo credit: Fiona Rodgers

"It's an exhibition of firsts as it includes the first colour photographs exhibited by Bruce Gilden in the UK. Bruce's contribution are portraits of some of the workers from Vauxhall and Tate & Lyle factories in London. Mark Power's contribution to the project is also the first time that he has shot a project digitally."

Kevin Meredith, Lomokev

For the full blog see here:
<http://lomokev.com/blog/>

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Multistory gratefully acknowledges support from Sandwell Council and Arts Council England

Festive wishes from the Multistory Team!