

Paul Gaffney Ireland

We Make the Path by Walking During 2012 I walked over 3,500 kilometers with the aim of creating a body of work which would explore the idea of long-distance walking as a form of meditation and personal transformation.

My intention was to create a series of quiet, meditative images, which would explore the experience of being immersed in nature and capture the essence of the journey. The images seek to engage the viewer in this walk, and to communicate a sense of the subtle internal and psychological changes which one may undergo while negotiating the landscape.



Untitled #34 from the series We Make the Path by Walking, 2012, Printed on Hahnemuhle Photo Rag 308g Paper, 36.5H x 46W cm

Paul Gaffney Biography

For the past number of years, Paul Gaffney has been investigating different ways of experiencing and representing landscape. His current PhD research explores how the act of image making can enable and disrupt a sense of connection with one's surroundings. Drawing on Arnold Berleant's theory of a 'participatory approach' to landscape, in which the artist, environment and viewer are considered to be in continuous dialogue with each other, his practice proposes to communicate an experience of immersion in nature to the viewer.

Gaffney holds an MFA in Photography from the University of Ulster in Belfast, and a Diploma in Documentary Photography from the University of Wales, Newport. He was selected for the Arts Council's 'Next Generation Bursary Award' 2016-17, and has been nominated for both the Prix Pictet and Deutsche Borse prizes.

His acclaimed photobook, *We Make the Path by Walking*, focused on the idea of long distance walking as a form of meditation. His second publication *Stray* was photographed by night in a dense Irish forest and his latest project *Perigee* was made in the Ardennes in Luxembourg under the light of the full moon. His books have been nominated for the Photobook Award at the International Photobook Festival Kassel (2013 & 2016), shortlisted for the European Publishers Award for Photography, and selected for several 'Best Photobooks of The Year' lists.

Gaffney's work has also been presented as solo exhibitions at the Centre national de l'audiovisuel (Luxembourg), Flowers Gallery (London), Gallery of Photography (Dublin), Belfast Exposed Gallery, Ffotogallery (Cardiff), Oliver Sears Gallery (Dublin) and in group shows and festivals in the US, UK, South Africa, Ireland, Italy, France and China. His images have been published internationally in print and online periodicals including American Suburb X, Harvard Design Review, Creative Review, The New Yorker, European Photography, DU Magazine, Katalog, PaperJam, Source, Photomonitor and Landscape Stories.

Education

2013-23	PhD with Practice – Ulster University, Belfast (due to submit in October)
2011-13	MFA in Photography (Distinction) – Ulster University, Belfast
2008-10	Diploma in Documentary Photography – University of Wales, Newport

Selected Collections

Centre National de l'audiovisuel, Luxembourg

State Art Collection, Office of Public Works, Dublin, Ireland

National Photography Collection, Photo Museum Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Private collections in Ireland, France, Belgium, Japan, US and UK

Selected Exhibitions | Solo + Two Person

- 2023 Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2016 *Perigee*, Gallery of Photography, Dublin, Ireland
Stray, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Perigee, Centre national de l'audiovisuel (CNA), Luxembourg
- 2015 *Stray*, Belfast Exposed, Belfast, NI
- 2014 *We Make the Path by Walking*, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
We Make the Path by Walking, Ffotogallery, Cardiff, Wales
- 2013 *We Make the Path by Walking*, Cortona on the Move Festival, Italy
We Make the Path by Walking, Instituto Cervantes, Dublin, Ireland
We Make the Path by Walking, Flowers Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

Selected Exhibitions | Group

- 2023 *In Residence III*, Oliver Sears Gallery & Ting Ying, Cromwell Place, London, UK
- 2022 *In Our Own Image: Chapter 3, The Politics of Place*, Photo Museum Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Images Are All We Have, Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland
On the Irish Photobook, Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland
 Inaugural National Photography Collection Exhibition, Gallery of Photography, Dublin, Ireland
- 2021 *Transitory*, Centre Culturel de Serbie, Paris, France
- 2020 *The Time of our Lives*, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2019 *In Living Memory*, Emo Court, Co. Laois, Ireland
NATURE MUSIC, Killarney House, Killarney, Ireland
Press Play, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2018 Biennial de la Photographie Mulhouse, Mulhouse, France
Flux Feelings, Cercle Cité, Luxembourg
Beyond View, Belfast Exposed, Belfast, NI
Terra Nostra, Wexford County Council Offices, Wexford, Ireland
J Book Show, Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland
The Romantic Landscape, Noorderlicht Gallery, Groningen, Netherlands
- 2017 *Flux Feelings*, La Chapelle de La Charité, Les Rencontres d'Arles, France
Post-Picturesque: Photographing Ireland, Rochester Arts Centre, Rochester, MN, US
Post-Picturesque: Photographing Ireland, Perlman Museum, Carleton, MN, US
4 Photographers, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Photobook Phenomenon, Centre de Cultura Contemporania de Barcelona, Spain
- 2016 *In Residence II*, Oliver Sears Gallery, Fitzroy Square, London, UK
 IAWATST, images from the State Art Collection – Dublin Castle / The Lab & touring
Phototropism, The Library Project, Dublin, Ireland
- 2015 *In Residence*, Oliver Sears Gallery, Fitzroy Square, London, UK
A Lonely Impulse of Delight (150 years of W.B. Yeats), SO Fine Art, Dublin & touring
Give Way, Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford, Ireland

- 2014 Dali International Photography Festival, Dali, China
Fraction of a Second, Uni. Of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque
 185th RHA Annual Show, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland
The Natural Collection, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, Australia
 Senza meta. Il libro come pensiero fotografico, Fotografia Europea, Reggio Emilia, Italy
In a Landscape, Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Co Meath, Ireland
 133rd RUA Annual Show (Invited Artist), Ulster Museum, Belfast, NI
How One Thing Leads to Another, Houston Center for Photography, Houston, US
How One Thing Leads to Another, Cordon Potts Gallery, San Francisco, US
 UU/Yale MFA Photography Exhibition, University of Ulster, Belfast, NI

Selected Awards + Publications

- 2021 Strategic Projects Award, Wicklow Arts Office
 2018 Digital Media Award, Fire Station Artists' Studios (winner)
 2017 Arts Council Visual Artist Bursary (recipient of award for 2017/18)
 Deutsche Börse Photography Prize (nominated)
 2016 Arts Council Next Generation Bursary (recipient of award for 2016/17)
 Prix Pictet Award (nominated)
 Photobook Award 2016, 8th International Fotobook Festival, Beijing (nominated)
 2015 MACK First Book Award (nominated)
 2014 Review Santa Fe participant & Photolucida Critical Mass Top 50
 Arts Council Travel and Training Award
 Culture Ireland Visual Arts Grant
 2013 Photobook Award 2013 – 6th International Fotobook Festival, Kassel (nominated)
 European Publishers Award for Photography (shortlisted)
 Johnsons Photopia Award – Format Festival, Derby (winner)
 Human Flows – CRASSH, University of Cambridge (winner)

Photobooks

- 2017 *Perigee*, edition of 750 + 50 special editions (co-published with the CNA, Luxembourg)
 2016 *Stray*, limited edition of 50 handmade artist books
 2014 *Three Days in Tharoul*, unique artist book created during collaborative residency
 2013 *We Make the Path by Walking*, self-published edition of 1,000 photobooks

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Taste Contemporary

Rue Abraham Constantin 6, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland

T: +41 79 406 65 82

E: info@tastecontemporary.com

W: www.tastecontemporary.com