

SIXTEEN

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

'Being sixteen sucks... but being sixteen can be beautiful' Amarie, Cardiff, Wales



The ground breaking, multi-media project **SIXTEEN** concludes its yearlong tour of the UK, bringing the faces and voices of more than 180 sixteen-year-olds to London for the first time. An exhibition in the public realm opens on 18 January on the mezzanine, adjacent to City Hall and The Scoop amphitheatre, Queens Walk, London SE1 2DB

'When I was younger I was abused. I'm not letting that define me. I'm not my past'
Stephanie, Outer Hebrides, Scotland

Sixteen is an age of transition. It's a time of increasing peer pressure, risk taking, and anxiety about social and personal worth. It can be turbulent and challenging for adolescents on the cusp of adulthood as they try to find their place in a society that often seems oblivious of their concerns.

'I'm Muslim and I'm so proud of my culture no matter what the news is saying'
Halima, Nelson, England

This ambitious project brings together the work of 16 photographers whose portraits and interviews with British youth offer a glimpse of what it means to be sixteen years old in today's fractured country. These teenagers come from diverse areas of the UK, including large conurbations such as London, Manchester and Edinburgh; rural Wales, and the Scottish Islands; and communities in the north of England and Northern Ireland.

'You can marry your MP but you can't vote for her' Samuel, Ebbw Vale, Wales

Working with photography, film, video, audio and the written word the photographers open up conversations with these young people. They speak about their hopes and fears, and whom or what they really care about. Topics range from climate change, identity, belonging, knife crime, to teenage suffrage, family and mental health.

'Society will always see me as black... I feel judged daily' Travelle, London, England

Over 250,000 people have seen **SIXTEEN** as it crisscrossed Britain, visiting 15 cities and towns, from Shetland to Belfast, via Hull and Newlyn. It has been exhibited in regional museums, local libraries, art festivals and universities - and it's applauded for representing the profound dignity of these teenagers, many from communities that are often maligned, forgotten, or simply left behind.

'The optimism we have in our generation is something no one's ever seen before'
Oliver, Wigan, England

SIXTEEN

IN NUMBERS

Venues 20

Visitors 250,000

Sixteen-year-olds 184

Photographers 16

Photographers Linda Brownlee, David Copeland, Lottie Davies, Craig Easton, Jillian Edelstein, Stuart Freedman, Sophie Gerrard, Kalpesh Lathigra, Roy Mehta, Christopher Nunn, Kelly O'Brien, Kate Peters, Simon Roberts, Michelle Sank, Abbie Trayler-Smith and Robert C Brady.

Concept and Lead Photographer Craig Easton

Craig conceived this project at the time of the Scottish independence referendum when sixteen-year-olds could vote, for the first, and as yet only, time in the UK

Creative Director and Curator Anne Braybon

Creative Producer Liz Wewiora

LONDON EXHIBITIONS

Saturday 18 January - Sunday 16 February

SIXTEEN in the public realm on the mezzanine, adjacent to City Hall and The Scoop amphitheatre Queen's Walk, London SE1 2BD

R K Burt Gallery

Tuesday 21 January - Thursday 13 February

57 Union Street, Borough, London SE1 1SG, fifteen minutes walk or by bus from City Hall

Photofusion

Friday 7 February - Thursday 19 March

Opening Evening 6 February 6-9pm

Gallery entrance: via Brixton Recreation Centre on Brixton Station Road, London, SW9 8QQ or International House, 6 Canterbury House, Brixton, London SW9 7QD

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Curators' tours

Saturday 18 January 2pm

City Hall, on the mezzanine adjacent to The Scoop amphitheatre, Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2BD

Thursday 23 January 2pm City Hall, as above and afterwards at R K Burt Gallery

57 Union Street, Borough, London SE1 1SG

Photofusion and **The Photographers' Gallery** will co-host a programme of public events
www.photofusion.org and www.thephotothealthersgallery.org.uk

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact

Liz Wewiora sixtentouring@gmail.com

Online: Twitter @sixtentouring Instagram @sixteen_touring

Website: sixtentouring.co.uk

Project enquiries: sixtentouring@gmail.com

Admission: FREE



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