

Press Contacts:

Kara Reaney and Alexia Menikou
kara@pelhamcommunications.com
alexia@pelhamcommunications.com
+ 44 (0)20 8969 3959

The Alan Cristea Gallery at
31&34 Cork St. London W1S 3NU
Telephone +44(0)20 7439 1866
Facsimile +44(0)20 7439 1874
Email: info@alancristea.com
Website: www.alancristea.com

Mark Neville

London/Pittsburgh

20 November 2014 – 24 January 2015



Mark Neville
Rumshakers, 2012
© Mark Neville, courtesy of the artist and Alan Cristea Gallery



Mark Neville
Dancefloor of Boujis Nightclub, 2011
© Mark Neville, courtesy of the artist and Alan Cristea Gallery

Mark Neville is a world renowned artist who works at the intersection of art and documentary. His socially focused projects incorporate photography, film and book publishing and are often based upon new research by expert sociologists. The artist is interested in exploring the social function of art, working closely with communities facing difficult circumstances and investigating how films and photographs can effect change in the real world.

In 2012 Neville was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for a commission by New York Times Magazine in which he documented the stark contrasts inherent in London society and subcultures. He subsequently lived amongst divergent communities in the industrial heartland of the US, creating work under commission by the Andy Warhol Museum.

In his first exhibition, *London/Pittsburgh*, at the Alan Cristea Gallery, Neville exhibits thirteen works from these two significant projects, side-by-side for the first time. The pairing of *Here is London* (2012) and *Braddock/Sewickley* (2012) contrasts British and American society, further emphasises social disparities, and yet reveals behavioral characteristics which are shared regardless of economic circumstance, cultural factors or geographic location.

In both series the artist confronts viewers with uncomfortable truths about imbalances that still exist in both countries. The artist's concerns about division of wealth and racial segregation reverberate throughout *Braddock/Sewickley*. Sewickley is a community originally made prosperous by the steel industry, where the wealthy and almost exclusively white population socialise at exclusive country clubs, revering antiquated ideas of British high society. By contrast, neighbouring Braddock is a town with a mostly black community that has fallen on hard times with the collapse of the steel industry and where the crack cocaine epidemic of the early eighties is still having an affect.

Press Contacts:

Kara Reaney and Alexia Menikou
kara@pelhamcommunications.com
alexia@pelhamcommunications.com
+ 44 (0)20 8969 3959

The Alan Cristea Gallery at
31&34 Cork St. London W1S 3NU
Telephone +44(0)20 7439 1866
Facsimile +44(0)20 7439 1874
Email: info@alancristea.com
Website: www.alancristea.com

The race divide in Pittsburgh, is startling in comparison to Neville's images of the cosmopolitan British capital but *Here Is London* reflects how the divisive effects of class and money have changed little in the UK over the past forty years. Images of traders at the London Metal Exchange and dancing crowds at the society nightclub *Boujis* are exhibited alongside photographs of activist groups like Occupy London and life at community centres in Tottenham.

The seemingly timeless nature of these economic and social forces is echoed through Neville's choice of lighting and film stock. He purposefully echoes the style of the photographers who documented the boom and bust of the seventies and eighties.

"I had viewed both London and Pittsburgh through a prism mixed with Charles Dickens and Norman Rockwell. Sometimes the bringing together of two bodies of work made in different locations can generate new insights and reflections upon social divisions in each." - Mark Neville

From 2 to 19 December 2014 Mark Neville's exhibition *Art as Social Document* will be displayed at the London School of Economics. This will be followed by a Panel Discussion at LSE, which will use the themes explored in *London/ Pittsburgh* as a platform for a wider discussion about inequality within society.

Until 25 September 2014, Neville is exhibiting a new body of work at the Imperial War Museum, focussing on the two months he spent as an official war artist with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in 2011. His films and photographs question our presence in Afghanistan not just now, but throughout history.

About Mark Neville

Mark Neville's work has consistently looked to subvert the traditional role of social documentary practice, seeking to find new ways to empower the position of its subject over that of the author. The work exists in different forms in many public and private collections, including those of the Arts Council of England, Kunstmuseum Bern, National Galleries of Scotland, Imperial War Museum, London, the Flemish Community, and Scottish Parliament. Neville has presented talks on his practice internationally at venues including Harvard University, USA and the Whitechapel Gallery, London.

The photo and text book *Deeds Not Words* (2013) was sent out with a letter to UK local authorities and environmental agencies internationally to raise awareness of issues around the handling of toxic waste. Photographs from the project were exhibited at The Photographer's Gallery, London (2013). *Port Glasgow Book Project* was a year long residency. The resulting book was uniquely delivered to eight thousand households in the Port is not commercially available. The works were shown at Modern Art Oxford; Dick Institute, Kilmarnock; Haus Der Kunst, Munich; Jeu de Paume, Paris; and Baltic Mill, Gateshead.

In autumn 2014 Neville will publish a book *about Battle Against Stigma*, a book in two volumes about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder among returning troops. The book will combine Neville's images from Helmand and photographs taken of the military back in the UK with testimonies about adjustment disorder from servicemen and women. It will be sent out free to Defence Mental Health Services, the NHS and veteran charities to encourage troops suffering from the condition to seek help at an early stage.

Press Contacts:

Kara Reaney and Alexia Menikou
kara@pelhamcommunications.com
alexia@pelhamcommunications.com
+ 44 (0)20 8969 3959

The Alan Cristea Gallery at
31&34 Cork St. London W1S 3NU
Telephone +44(0)20 7439 1866
Facsimile +44(0)20 7439 1874
Email: info@alancristea.com
Website: www.alancristea.com

About Alan Cristea Gallery

One of the leading commercial contemporary galleries in Europe, the Alan Cristea Gallery is the primary representative for a number of established international contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists. The gallery opened at 31 Cork Street in 1995 and since then has expanded to a second exhibition space at 34 Cork Street, with both galleries showing a continuous programme of exhibitions including contemporary paintings, works on paper, sculpture and installations. In addition, the gallery is known for its commitment to original prints and editions, commissioning and facilitating innovative projects by outstanding artists, and is the largest publisher of contemporary editions and prints in Europe.

The gallery is a member of the International Fine Print Dealers Association and Alan Cristea is treasurer of the Society of London Art Dealers.

Exhibition Facts

Title: **Mark Neville: *London/Pittsburgh***
Address: Alan Cristea Gallery, 31 Cork Street, London W1
Telephone: +44 (0) 207 439 1866
Website: www.alancristea.com
Dates: 20 November 2014 – 24 January 2015
(Closed 24 December – 4 January 2015)
Opening Hours: 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat
Admission: Free
Travel: Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street Tube Station

For press information and images please contact:

Kara Reaney and Alexia Menikou at Pelham Communications

Tel: +44 20 8969 3959

Email: kara@pelhamcommunications.com and alexia@pelhamcommunications.com