

Culture

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Winslet was right to go over the top – winning an Emmy is a big deal

EVER won an Oscar in front of a watching audience of billions and cried so hard you hyperventilated? Nope, me neither. And the point is that very few of us ordinary mortals will ever get to experience the intense high of being crowned king or queen of Hollywood. I enjoy the Oscars. I used to love the ceremony and religiously stay awake to soak up the entire atmosphere. Lately, my son and two children have stopped all of that. Now I catch the highlights over breakfast.

Use of the highlights of the highlights is second-guessing who will go to pieces if they win. And, unlike so many of the watching hordes, I don't get irritated when a movie star loses gaps, composure and all sense of decorum by making a mess, thinking their pool cleaner and limo driver and sobbing into the microphone.

Let's be honest: winning an Oscar is a life-changing moment. Temporarily it makes the recipient one of the most sought-after, heralded and highly-paid performers on the planet. Not everyone can curl like Coltrane ("I think my career has just peaked...") or be effortlessly cool like Jack Nicholson, who skipped onto the stage to collect his award for *As Good as It Gets* in 1997.

There have been several moments of Oscar hysteria. We all know the guilty parties, Cas Sully fielding "You like me?" on winning the best actress gong for *Places in the Heart* or Cyndee Paltrow

dehiscing and melting as she accepted her shiny golden man for *Shakespeare in Love*.

Cuba Gooding Jr did his bit for earnestness when he won best supporting actor for *Jerry Maguire*. And then Jack Black did it differently, performing one-arm push-ups after first losing to best Billy Crystal, his co-star in *City Slickers*. The Oscar speech is an art form. And it's not just the Oscars. There is no major international awards ceremony that involves nervous, kept-up actors and you get a meltdown. It's guaranteed. What's more, it's easy to share them for being a tad over-the-top. If they win? I say not.

Take Kate Winslet. She was a terrific wreck when she won a Golden Globe for *Revolutionary Road* two years ago. And this week she gave another gloriously OTT performance when she won an Emmy for her role as '48 mm *Mildred Pierce*. Her speech has been widely mocked. But why? She hasn't won the ladies' league darts trophy at the Dog and Duck. She's won an Emmy. It's a Big Deal. It was one I'd be bragging to my boss. And she – and Brad Pitt and Paltrow and Halle Berry and Charlize Theron – didn't enough pull out a pre-prepared number. She spoke from the heart, honestly and with genuine joy. We should reward her. And I hope I can be similarly spontaneous when I win mine.

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Bradford is perfect home for new photo festival



SNAPSHOT: One of the images is a work by Turner Prize winner Jeremy Deller. PICTURE: BRADFORD MUSEUM.

INTERVIEW / PREVIEW

A month-long contemporary photography festival opens in Bradford next month. Nick Ahad spoke to the woman behind the event.

SITTING in Impressions Gallery in Bradford City Centre, it is easy to feel like the city has been forgotten, abandoned by the people in charge. The Arts Council funded gallery sits in the handsome shaped row of buildings opposite the magnificent town hall. Three of the large retail units along the same block lay empty. In front of the gallery is a city centre development that looks like a bomb site. The city park, due for completion this autumn has not been postponed until winter.

Fortunately, there are those who still believe in the city and who also believe that culture is crucial to put it at the heart of regeneration. Anne McNeill is one such person. The director of Impressions Gallery is also a co-founder of Ways of Looking, a new, month-long festival of

photography taking place in the city throughout next month. McNeill has led a consortium which will create the city-wide festival showcasing the work of leading contemporary photographers in established venues, pop-up sites, and in public spaces around the city. "McNeill has high hopes for the festival. 'We really do think Bradford can become the UK's top destination for photography,'" says McNeill.

"We really do think Bradford can become the UK's top destination for photography."

It is a good idea, clearly and it has this great swell of cultural activity happening all around the city. The seeds were sown for next month's festival over a decade ago, when a similar photography festival took place across Yorkshire in 1998. A decade later, McNeill combined with Nicola Stephenson, director of Leeds

City Council had the faith in the project to invest such an amount. With the funding in place, it's been fun for thinking Leeds might be the obvious venue for a cultural event of this magnitude but, despite a number of Leeds-based companies involved in the consortium organising the festival, Bradford was agreed, with its history in photography and with a national museum dedicated to the art form, was the natural home for Ways of Looking.

The venues taking part include Gallery 11, Impressions Gallery, National Media Museum, the Hungarian Cultural and Social Centre and there will be photographs on billboards around the city. The quality of the artists taking part is impressive. ■ Impressions Gallery: Red Saunders, Hilder. ■ Bradford 1 Gallery: Jeremy Deller's found photographs from *Bele Vue Studios*. ■ National Media Museum: Doreen Wolfe and Daniel Meadows. *Wylie* exhibits photographs from Afghanistan. ■ Hungarian Cultural

Yorkshire living

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LIVING HISTORY: Photographer Red Saunders' recreation of the Peasants' Revolt 1381. Saunders' work is featured in the Ways of Looking festival.

WAYS OF LOOKING VENUES AND ARTISTS

- Impressions Gallery: Red Saunders, Hilder.
- Bradford 1 Gallery: Jeremy Deller's found photographs from *Bele Vue Studios*.
- National Media Museum: Doreen Wolfe and Daniel Meadows. *Wylie* exhibits photographs from Afghanistan.
- Hungarian Cultural Centre: Diana Bielek exhibits photographs taken during the closure of the centre.
- Platform 1 Bradford Interchange: Alan Duns and Shanz Gulzar share the space.
- Ways of Looking, Bradford, October 1-30. www.waysoflooking.org

Book-lovers on the trail of art as festival opens new chapter

Yvette Huddleston
ILKLEY'S annual Literature Festival has become one of the most respected and prestigious in the country. This year, there will be a new element to the festival incorporating the Ilkley Art Trail, created by local freelance arts project manager and curator Lorna Bird. Lorna, who is passionate about making the arts more accessible, has already made her mark in Ilkley. Last year she set up a 'pop-up' gallery, exhibiting the work of artists exhibiting in unconventional venues – including hotels, wine bars and even a solicitor's office. "With the Art Trail we want to put Ilkley firmly on the map where visual arts are concerned," says Lorna. "The impetus behind the trail is to enable artists in the area to raise their profile, exhibit and sell their work across many more places."

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with Turner Prize winners Douglas Gordon and Jeremy Deller, renowned Magnum photographer Donovan Wylie and photographer Red Saunders all working to the festival theme of Evidence. Saunders' work will be on show at Impressions Gallery and features stagings of historical events. He has created a number of new works specifically for the festival.

The highly political photographer, whose stunning photographs are reminiscent of paintings by the Old Masters, said a festival like Ways of Looking is vital for this moment and important for Bradford. "As the city being made to our cultural life threaten to undermine the arts in this country, it is so important that there is something like this that celebrates art in a vibrant and distinctive way."

WIBRANT AND DISTINCTIVE: One of Mary Fisher's acrylic paintings will be on show in the Ilkley Art Trail next month.

ART 3

BRIEFLY



Silvester artwork at Thirk gallery

THERE is just one week left to see the work of Roger Silvester at the Thirk gallery, Zillah Bell. The exhibition of drawings and prints runs until October 1st at the small gallery, proving increasingly popular in North Yorkshire. When he was a student at the Royal College of Art in the Fifties and Sixties, Silvester would regularly pack up his materials in a rucksack and set off on a bicycle to draw his native Midway towns. Remarkably, a substantial number of these drawings, by the prodigiously talented Silvester have survived and make up the Zillah Bell exhibition.



Photography at Nunnington Hall

MOVED from some of the world's leading photographers go on display at Nunnington Hall on September 27. The exhibition, at the National Trust property near Helmsley, features the work of more than 30 photographers, including contributions from photographers Bill Brett and Martin Parr and early prints by Jacques-Henri Lartigue and Lewis Hine. The show runs until October 30 and for more information call the hall on 01429 78283 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.



Celebrating 50 years of O'Neill

An exhibition of work by photographer Terry O'Neill to celebrate his 50 years in the business is to be held at Leeds Gallery. Throughout the last half a century, O'Neill has captured many famous faces on camera, from actor Brigitte Bardot to the late singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse. The show, which is a collaboration between the gallery and O'Neill Fine Photographs London, runs until October 31. For more information call 0113 243 2266 or visit the website at www.leeds-gallery.com.