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Borderland: Stories from Donbas

Christopher Nunn

4 October 2019 - 4 January 2020

Made over a period of six years, this exhibition presents a rare glimpse of everyday life in the Donbas region. Situated at the far eastern edge of Ukraine, close to the border of Russia, Donbas is an important mining region and a source of coal for power stations across the country. The area is now the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, and is the site of the only active war zone in Europe.

Nunn ended up in this war zone unexpectedly. In 2013 he travelled to Kalush, Ukraine, in an attempt to learn more about his grandmother who had arrived in the North of England as a displaced person just after World War II. A year later Nunn was still in Ukraine when the Euromaidan protests started in Kyiv.

In the subsequent years, he has been present during the revolution, the political crisis and ongoing war. He says "Donbas is beautiful and brutal, a place of comedy and pain. I heard stories from the tragic to the hilarious. The conflict exists and the people I photograph exist too".

Nunn's photographs capture the quiet moments and overlooked details away from the flash points of fighting and the spotlight of international news.

What began as a personal project on memory and family has grown into a body of work about a region during a time of flux and its people's changing attitudes to their country, identity and history.

An accompanying newspaper co-published with Essarter Editions is available in our shop for £3.

To find out more, pick up an exhibition guide, browse our reading area or come along to Christopher Nunn and Anne McNeill in conversation (as part of our annual Photobook Fair) on Saturday 26 October at 3pm. Free, booking recommended at the welcome desk.

This is the premiere and first major solo show by Christopher Nunn. An Impressions Gallery touring show, curated by Anne McNeill.



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