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Mark Power: *The Sound of Two Songs*

14 January to 24 March 2012

Produced over a period of five years, *The Sound of Two Songs* is an extensive photographic survey of Poland.

Mark Power made his first visit in 2004 as part of a project instigated by Magnum Photos to document the ten countries joining the European Union that year. Despite having no family ties to Poland, he soon became fascinated by the place at a time when as many as one million Poles were coming to settle and work in the UK. Over time Power's focus shifted from an investigation into the effects of EU membership into a more subjective, poetic and autobiographical response to a country he has grown to love.

Since the beginnings of photography, there has been a tendency for photographers to colonise and appropriate other lands and people through images. Power is sensitive to the potential problems of being an 'outsider' in a foreign land.

Continued overleaf

However, he also embraces the opportunities presented by travelling in an unfamiliar place and seeing the everyday afresh. His images present Poland as a land 'bursting with visual contradictions... like listening to several melodies at once to the point where it's difficult to hear anything clearly'.

Although a highly personal body of work, *The Sound of Two Songs* also functions as an important historical document of this fascinating period in Poland's history.

To find out more, browse the reading area or come along to our free Artist Talk at 2pm on Saturday 25 February 2012 followed by an Artist Reception with refreshments.

Mark Power (UK, 1959) A major figure in contemporary British photography, Mark Power's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the world. He joined Magnum Photos in 2002, becoming a full Member in 2007. Power has published five monographs of his work: *The Shipping Forecast* (1996), *Superstructure* (2000), *The Treasury Project* (2002), *26 Different Endings* (2007) and *The Sound of Two Songs* (2010). In 2007 he curated the exhibition *Theatres of War*, which was shown in the Oskar Schindler factory in Krakow, as part of the Photomonth festival. Power is the Professor of Photography at the University of Brighton.
www.markpower.co.uk

A Magnum Photos touring exhibition, supported by Photomonth Krakow.