
MARTIN SEEDS

NO COUNTRY FOR YOUNG MEN

4th-21st NOVEMBER 2021

OPENING NIGHT PREVIEW

Thursday 4th November 6-9pm

Seen Fifteen is delighted to announce a solo show of new works by Northern Irish artist, Martin Seeds. The exhibition, *No Country For Young Men*, also marks the beginning of a long-term curatorial project at the gallery, *The Troubles Generation*, which will unfold in chapters over the coming 12 months, generously supported by the Genesis Kickstart Fund.

Martin Seeds (born in Belfast) dedicates his artistic practice to an ongoing examination of Northern Irish identity, politics and place. He employs differing modes of experimentation with photographic process as a means of encouraging us to reconsider the image and look again. *No Country For Young Men* looks back, via appropriation, at a series of found portraits in a Belfast school yearbook from 1965. This was a time, a few years before the civil conflict known as "The Troubles" started, when political tensions in Northern Ireland were rising and trouble was brewing. Seeds' act of appropriation places these 1960s school portraits into our current moment, and from our historical vantage point asks us to consider how individual lives in Northern Ireland were affected by the backdrop of a violent conflict that would last for 30 years.

"What will become of these boys, their youth and their fragile aspirations, as the shadow of history falls across their lives? It is not just the past that is hauntingly present in these humble portraits, but the looming, uncertain, tumultuous future."

Sean O'Hagan

No Country For Young Men is the first in a new series of exhibitions and events that will take place at Seen Fifteen as part of a wider project, *The Troubles Generation*. Looking ahead to a significant future moment in UK and Irish history with the 25th anniversary of The Good Friday Agreement in 2023, the project seeks to examine the legacy of The Troubles from the viewpoint of artists born into its divided society and with lived experience of growing up during the conflict. Taking a phased approach to developing photographic projects and new writing, the ultimate ambition is to create a large-scale touring exhibition in 2023.



ABOUT MARTIN SEEDS

Martin Seeds is a photographer and educator, originally from Belfast. His practice is shaped by his relationship with his Northern Irish homeland. Personal narratives, the relationship to place, politics, conflict, sameness and difference, diaspora and myth, are underlying themes that recur and interconnect in his work. He experiments with combinations of analogue and digital imaging technologies as a way to draw attention to the conflicting experiences of identity, history and culture. Martin Seeds was nominated for the Deutsche Borse Photography Prize 2020 for his solo exhibition, *Violence Religion Injustice Death*, at Seen Fifteen in 2019.

ABOUT SEEN FIFTEEN

Seen Fifteen is an independent emerging gallery and project space in Peckham, South East London. Seen Fifteen's artistic programme champions contemporary photography with a focus on emerging, diverse and experimental artists who expand the boundaries of the medium. Founded in 2015 by curator Vivienne Gamble, the gallery has hosted a number of widely acclaimed first UK solo shows for break-through photographic artists such as Laura El-Tantawy, Jan McCullough, Maya RoCHAT and Martin Seeds.

GENESIS KICKSTART FUND

A Genesis Kickstart Fund project, supported by the Genesis Foundation.



ALL ENQUIRIES

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