



GLYNN VIVIAN

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glynnviviangallery.org

The Moon and a Smile

Greta Alfaro | Anna Fox | Astrid Kruse Jensen | Neeta Madahar & Melanie Rose
Sharon Morris | Sophy Rickett | Helen Sear | Patricia Ziad

4 March 2017 - 23 April 2017

Preview Friday 3 March, 7-9pm

The artists will all be present

Room 3

The Moon and a Smile responds to a period in the 1840s and 1850s, when Swansea was at the centre of early experiments in photography worldwide. In particular, the Dillwyn family circle was prolific in the development of photography, especially John Dillwyn Llewellyn (1810-82) and his sister Mary, who took one of the earliest photographs of a smile and his daughter, Thereza, who took one of the earliest photographs of the moon.

The Dillwyn Llewellyn family, who lived at Penllergare and Sketty Hall, Swansea, were amongst the earliest and most enthusiastic experimenters with the new technology of photography, which was announced in 1839. Inventor and photography pioneer, William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-1877) was a cousin of Emma, John Dillwyn Llewellyn's wife. The family collaborated and experimented together and left a rich and unique record of their experiments with the medium, perhaps the most complete record of a family's intimacy with photography in the 1840s and 50s.

Responding to this unique archive, the Gallery has arranged eight new commissions

from contemporary international artists. Each artist has created a distinct rich body of work for the exhibition, following their own practice and inspiration. The exhibition encompasses photography, installation, artist books and moving image, and explores themes of memory, archives, botanics, time, family, and industrialisation.

For this exhibition, their work is displayed alongside a selection of original 19th century photographs that had particular resonance for their projects, on loan from the Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum of Wales, National Library of Wales and West Glamorgan Archive Service.

Photography Symposium

Saturday, 04.03.17, 10:0 – 17:00 Room 1

The Lure of the Archive

To coincide with the launch of the exhibition, Falmouth University will be hosting a one-day photography symposium at the Glynn Vivian, to explore the strategies of artists, curators and writers in engaging with historic collections and archives. Tickets £15, Concessions £10 Booking essential: www.glynnviviangallery.org

Gallery Talk

Friday, 17.03.17, 12:30-13:30 Room 1

Join writer Kate Best to look at some of the 19th century photographs and contemporary projects in *The Moon and a Smile*.

Free admission. Booking essential: www.glynnviviangallery.org

-----Ends-----

Notes to Editors:

1. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery is part of the City & County of Swansea
2. Glynn Vivian is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm, Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays) Alexandra Road, Swansea SA1 5DZ
3. For more information, high-res images or to arrange an interview with the Curator, Selector or Artist, please contact Laura Sims on 01792 516900 or email Laura.Sims@swansea.gov.uk

Visit www.glynnviviangallery.org for all Glynn Vivian information. All events are free, everyone welcome

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery Alexandra Road, Swansea, SA1 5DZ
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Supported by a grant from the Arts Council of Wales



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