



GLYNN VIVIAN

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## Press Release

Helen Sear

...the rest is smoke

**23.09.17 – 19.11.17**

**Preview Friday 22.09.17, 19:00 – 21:00**

### Room 3

Glynn Vivian is delighted to present the first UK showing of Helen Sear's ... *the rest is smoke*. In 2015 Welsh artist, Helen Sear was selected to represent Cymru yn Fenis/Wales in Venice at the 56th International Art Exhibition, the Venice Biennale. The exhibition ...*the rest is smoke* was curated by Stuart Cameron on behalf of Ffotogallery and was the first time that Wales presented a solo exhibition by a female artist at the Venice Biennale.

Helen Sear is one of Wales' most prominent contemporary artists and her practice can be characterised by her exploration of the crossover between photography and fine art, her focus on the co-existence of the human, animal, and natural worlds. Sear's current work seamlessly moves between expanded notions of photography, sculpture and video, with the artist exhibiting great command of different materials and production processes.

Sear's photographic practice developed from a fine art background in performance, film and installation work in the 1980s and she continues to explore ideas of vision,

touch and the representation of the nature of experience, combining drawing, lens-based media and digital technologies. Her work challenges accepted notions of photography as a documentary and creative medium.

This is the first time that ...*the rest is smoke* will be exhibited in Wales. The exhibition ...*the rest is smoke* was curated by Stuart Cameron on behalf of Ffotogallery and commissioned by the Arts Council of Wales. This exhibition will tour to Crescent Arts, Scarborough, Impressions Gallery, Bradford and Hestercombe House, Somerset in 2018.

Helen Sear said:

“Having lived and worked in Wales since 1984, the opportunity to be part of Wales in Venice has been an ambition of mine for several years. The photographic image in art practice has never been so diverse or contested, and, with the acceleration of new digital technologies, the material presence of the image is now more than ever at stake.”

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**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 or Artist, please contact Charlotte Thomas on 01792 516900 or email [charlotte.thomas@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.thomas@swansea.gov.uk)
4. Cymru yn Fenis/Wales in Venice is commissioned and managed by the Arts Council of Wales and Wales Arts International with support and collaboration from the Welsh Government and British Council. It is selected by a call for proposals. Arts Council of Wales has commissioned artists to present at Cymru yn Fenis/Wales in Venice as a Collateral Event at the Venice Biennale since 2003, celebrating the best of emerging and established artists from Wales. James Richards is the current artist representing Cymru yn Fenis/Wales in Venice. Previous artists include Bedwyr Williams, Tim Davies and John Cale. <http://www.walesvenicebiennale.org.uk>

## Further information:

### Helen Sear - Brief Biography

Helen Sear (b.1955) studied Fine Art at Reading University and the Slade School, University College London. Her work came to prominence in the 1991 British Council exhibition De-Composition: Constructed Photography in Britain, which toured extensively throughout Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Her work explores the materiality of vision, often combining hand drawn or erased elements with photography to disrupt the conventional fixed-point perspective associated with the medium. She also works with moving image and mixed media installations.

Her work was included in the exhibition About Face at the Hayward Gallery London in summer 2004 and La Mirada Reflexiva at the Espai D'Art Contemporani in Castellon Spain in 2005. The 90-page monograph Twice was published by Zelda Cheatle Press in 2002, and Grounded first exhibited at Zinc Gallery Stockholm, became a touring exhibition curated by Impressions Gallery, York between 2003 and 2005.

Other solo exhibitions include Inside The View, shown at Gallery Harmonia in Finland in 2006, G39 Cardiff who also published the bookwork Tale in 2009, Beyond The View, Hoopers Gallery London, and Klompching New York in 2010.

Ffotogallery Wales published her first major monograph in 2012 Inside The View. GOST published the bookwork Brisées in 2013 which accompanied the major national tour Lure in the same year.

Visit [www.glynnviviangallery.org](http://www.glynnviviangallery.org) for all Glynn Vivian information.

All events are free, everyone welcome

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CYMRU YN FENIS  
WALES IN VENICE

