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BERWICK VISUAL ARTS ANNOUNCES KATIE DAVIES AS ITS NEW ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Bristol based filmmaker is the town's new artist in residence, in partnership with Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival.

Berwick Visual Arts and Berwick Film & Media Art Festival are pleased to announce Katie Davies as their second artist in residence.

Bristol based Katie Davies is a video artist who explores the politics of spectatorship, her installations valuing what is invisible and experiential, over a definitive image or document of time. Her recent projects include *38th Parallel*, working with the UN Armistice Commission and United States Forces in Korea to research and film within the Korean Demilitarized Zone and *The Separation Line*, an installation portrait of the British repatriation ceremonies that transformed Royal Wootton Bassett in 2011, working alongside The Royal British Legion and Wootton Bassett Town Council.

Berwick Visual Arts and Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival's joint residency provides the opportunity for an artist working with moving image to respond to Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival's theme for 2014 and to the town of Berwick itself.

In 2014 the Festival will once again take audiences on a journey, setting out to cross and transcend borders in all directions, exploring border identities all over the world. Berwick-upon-Tweed makes an ideal starting point: a border town in a region once known as 'the debatable lands,' with an identity neither English nor Scottish but all of its own.

Taking place in the same week as the historic Scottish independence referendum, and marking their tenth anniversary edition, the Festival will bring together independent film and artists' video to explore boundaries – on the map and in the mind – and the spaces in between.

On appointment Katie said *"I am extremely excited to be working with Berwick Visual Arts and Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, and to be based in Berwick-upon-Tweed. I know this will be a fantastic opportunity to work with and beyond political demarcations to get to the*

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heart of what makes this area, place and people so culturally significant and historically important.”

Katie was selected by a panel consisting of artist Marcus Coates; James Lowther Head of Visual Art, Berwick Visual Arts; Melanie Iredale, Director, Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival and Sam Peace, Relationship Manager, Visual Arts, Arts Council England from over 100 applications for the residency opportunity.

James Lowther, Head of Visual Art for Berwick Visual Arts said *“We are really excited by the appointment of Katie Davies as our new artist-in-residence and her current area of research and practice will create a fascinating response to theme of this year’s Festival. With a record number of artists submitting applications, were also delighted to continue and develop our successful partnership with Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival.”*

Melanie Iredale, Director of Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival said *“We’re really excited to welcome Katie to Berwick and to work with her on a project which responds to our theme of Border Crossing – already I can feel that the premiere of Katie’s work will be among the Festival’s highlights.”*

Jane Tarr, Director, North, Arts Council England commented *“I’m delighted that Katie Davies is the latest artist to take up a Berwick Visual Arts residency in association with the Berwick Media Arts & Film Festival. Berwick has a long history of attracting talented artists, from across the country and from further field, to immerse themselves in the history and culture of the town and its surrounding area. The Berwick residency opportunity has proved to be an important stepping stone for many of those artists who have undertaken it and gone on to achieve national and international recognition.”*

Katie will take up residency in the town from late March until September 2014.

- ENDS -

EDITOR’S NOTES:

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Photos:

2 x photos of Katie Davies attached – courtesy of the artist

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About Katie Davies

Emphasizing the communal process of commemoration, ritual and performance, Davies explores the politics of spectatorship, her installations valuing what is invisible and experiential, over a definitive image or document of eventhood.

Previous projects include *38th Parallel*, working with the UN Armistice Commission and United States Forces in Korea to research and film within the Korean Demilitarized Zone, working with The British Home Office, Sheffield City Council and Yorkshire Artspace Society to film *Commonwealth*, a film observing British Citizenship Ceremonies and working with The Royal British Legion with input from Wootton Bassett Town Council to research and film *The Separation Line*, an installation portrait of the British repatriation ceremonies that transformed Royal Wootton Bassett in 2011.

Her writing on practice-led research is to be published in the US publication *Border Visions: Identity and Diaspora in film*, in summer 2013 and her installation, *The Separation Line*, is to be included as part of the 100th anniversary of the start of The Great War and 75th anniversary of the start of the Second World War at the Royal West of England Academy, Bristol 2014. Davies is a lecturer in Fine Art and Sheffield Hallam University and is completing her PhD thesis at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

Katie Davies is also an Associate Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, The University of South Wales, Newport and The University of the West of England, Bristol, where she graduated with a PhD in Media, Place and Identity in 2013.

Previous Exhibitions

Centrum, Berlin, 2012, *Border Visions*, Connecticut, USA, 2011, Outpost Gallery, Norwich, 2011, ArtSway 2010, Istanbul Biennial 2009, Badhaus, St Gallen, Switzerland 2009, Mains d'Oeuvres Contemporary Art Space, Paris, 2009, Centre for Contemporary Art, Palestine 2009 and Glasgow International 2008.

www.katiedavies.com

About Berwick Visual Arts

Berwick Visual Arts is committed to developing a welcoming and engaging environment of exceptional, ambitious visual art to inspire, challenge and encourage learning and enjoyment for those who work, visit and live in Berwick-upon-Tweed and the communities it serves.

We programme exhibitions at The Granary Gallery which aims to be recognised as a venue that shows work from the best regional, national and international art collections and also The Gymnasium Gallery which we aim to continue to use as a venue for commissioning and touring high quality contemporary and conceptual work from regional, national and international artists.

Our residency programme offers the opportunity for 2 mid-career artists per year to live and work in Berwick to develop their practice and respond to the town itself.

www.berwickvisualarts.co.uk

About Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival

10th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival: 17th – 21st September 2014

Set in the seaside town of Berwick-upon-Tweed in far North Northumberland, Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and plans are afoot to make it

the biggest and best yet.

Over five days in September, the town is transformed; hosting film premieres, moving image art installations, live events, outdoor projections and hands-on workshops – all in various venues across Berwick and heritage sites around the town's medieval walls.

Now in its tenth year, the Festival has grown to become the largest festival of its kind in the region, attracting visitors from across the UK and filmmakers and artists from around the world.

This year the Festival returns in the same week as the Scottish independence referendum, and taking Berwick's position as a border town as a starting point, leads audiences on a journey exploring and crossing boundaries through independent film and artists' video.

Visit www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com for more information.