

VICTOR ALBROW

Kilmarnock, Scotland, 1952

Lives and works in Edinburgh, Scotland

Albrow studied architecture and attended art school before starting his career as a photographer in 1977. He has continued working in advertising *'just in case'*. In recent years he has surprised himself, developing a personal project in which he explores the nature of photographic portraits. In describing his work he says, *'this project is as much about the construction of image and how perceive a portrait as it is about the subject'*.

Series of Portraits

'I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s in a small industrial town in the southwest of Scotland. When I left home, I briefly studied architecture and then art. My next goal was to study philosophy and develop a new social theory of aesthetics, but instead I changed direction again and became an oilman for a few years. In the middle of the North Sea I read On Photography by Susan Sontag and realized that what I really wanted to do was be a photographer. I've worked in the field ever since.'

Series of Portraits are part of my ongoing exploration of what a portrait is. I'm interested in how we read the faces of others. There is a tradition in some contemporary photography of objectifying the subject. In reducing the person being photographed to an object, we can hopefully find ourselves being drawn into a dialogue with the image. We look for meaning or narrative in the faces of others whether consciously or unconsciously. In the absence of any expression, we project our own meanings on the image. The subject is reduced to an element in a still life. When I see someone daydreaming in a public place I often find myself wondering what it is that allows this person to be so disconnected from the here and now. They are like somnambulists standing still. What is it that they are dreaming?.' Victor Albrow

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2011

C Photo Action Virus, Langhans Galerie, Prague, Czech Republic

2010

Streetlevel Photoworks, Glasgow, Scotland

2006

National Science and Technology Museum, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

2005

Future Face Exhibition, Science Museum, London, United Kingdom

AWARDS

C Action grant, C International Photo Magazine Number 8, Madrid, Spain; London, United Kingdom

Albrow has also won numerous advertising awards, including the award of the Association of Photographers, London and the Communication Arts Photography Annuals, USA.