



THREE CITIES

An exhibition of new photographs by Niall O'Brien

This spring, Sid Motion Gallery and co-curator Bakul Patki are proud to present a new body of work by Irish photographer and filmmaker, **Niall O'Brien**. Entitled **'Three Cities'**, the show explores Santa Clara's 'Silicon Valley' through a series of intuitive landscapes and portraits, shot in and around the county's seven-mile long Bascom Avenue.

In 2016, **O'Brien** spent four months in the valley, living in an apartment on the extensive artery. Automatically curious, he found himself in a daily ritual - choosing another stretch of the avenue to research, film and photograph each day, at the same hour.

O'Brien was struck by the banality of a place that prides itself on being a world leader in innovation. Although no stranger to the US and its economic landscape, he was also affected by the enormous inequality that exists amongst Bascom's residents - some of America's wealthiest and its most impoverished, existing side by side.

Despite this **O'Brien** found moments of remarkable beauty in and around the valley, *"This was one of the most expensive places to live in the US, and it was kind of bland. It was full of the most cutting edge technology, yet the aesthetic had been forgotten. Cars and highways were all you could hear. There was nothing beautiful about the place - except the mountains that surrounded it, and the nature that persevered to appear in the least expected places."*



He also found beauty in the people that inhabit Bascom Avenue. Early on in his stay, **O'Brien** noticed a homeless man sleeping below his balcony. The photographer had seen him signing for donations by the Wholefoods across the road and, engaged by his consistently happy demeanour, offered to buy him breakfast. The man was Blake – a character that became incredibly important to **O'Brien** and, alongside his girlfriend Dana, came to represent the real humanity of Bascom Avenue.



O'Brien is known for his naturalistic and voyeuristic imagery, the result of a very personal process, which has historically seen him embed himself within 'tribes', whether they be young punks in the suburbs of London and Berlin, or the isolationist communities of conservative middle-America. Here he was drawn specifically to Blake and Dana's stories and their surroundings – spending months getting to know them and their routines, documenting their turmoil and their triumphs, as well as the streets that they call home.

The resulting body of work is an exquisite portrait – of a place, and of its people. It is a deeply insightful and ultimately respectful look at the lives of two unfortunate yet optimistic individuals, striving together, and succeeding daily against the odds, in a society whose successes has made it almost impossible for them to survive.

Three Cities by Niall O'Brien runs from April 26th – May 26th 2018

Sid Motion Gallery, 142 York Way, London N1 0AX

Private view: Thursday 26th April 2018 | 6 - 8pm

General Opening Hours: Thursday – Saturday | 12 - 6pm and by appointment

Extended hours during Photo London: Tuesday 15th May – Sunday 20th May | 12 – 6pm

Niall O'Brien recently made a film to accompany Solomon Grey's latest single 'Wonderful World'. The film features Blake and Dana and is part of his ongoing Bascom Avenue project. The film can be found here: <https://youtu.be/YhsayIHmuQA>

For press enquiries please contact Bakul Patki: b@bakulpatki.com / +44(0)7984462358

Images: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gb67750dpkiipdc/AABAUn1nOluWwe-HeP2fQPmsa?dl=0>

For sales enquiries please contact Sid Motion: info@sidmotiongallery.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:**ABOUT NIALL O'BRIEN:**

Born in Dublin, Ireland, photographer and filmmaker Niall O'Brien studied fine art photography at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology.

Niall has exhibited widely in a number of continents and continues to exhibit. He is currently working on a number of personal and commercial projects.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 "Good Rats" Sunday Inventory Gallery, Zurich Switzerland
- 2012 "Good Rats" Upon Space Berlin Germany
- 2011 "Good Rats", No 10 Gallery, NYC, USA
"Anger", Block T Gallery, Dublin, IRL
- 2010 "Good Rats", Art Work Space, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

- 2015 "Spring Clean" 168 Elizabeth Street, NYC
"Culture Night" Belfast, Ireland
- 2013 "Prophunters 3" Mabos Dublin, Ireland
"4 Bothies" Inis Shark, Ireland
- 2011 "100 Pound Shop" Repositioned Gallery Glasgow, UK
"10 Years of FOAM" FOAM museum, Amsterdam, NE
"Sample 11" Print Space, London, UK
- 2010 "Bare Bones V" The Red Gallery, London, UK
"Art Mosh" Rochelle School, London, UK
"SIPF", Lim Hak Tai Gallery, Singapore
"Bare Bones IV", Envoy Gallery, NYC, USA
"Bare Bones III", Maurice Einhardt Neu Gallery, London, UK
"Pop Up", Art Work Space East, London, UK
- 2009 "Bare Bones II", Maurice Einhardt Neu Gallery, London, UK
"Bare Bones I", Dazed and Confused Gallery, London, UK
"MKII", MKII Gallery, Clapton, London, UK
"Creatures", London Newcastle Project Space, London, UK
"DIY London Seen", Covent Garden, London, UK
"Watch this Space", Covent Garden, London, UK
- 2008 "Derive", Rivington Street Gallery, London, UK
- 2004 "Salon," Cabinteely Arts Centre, Co Dublin, Ireland, IRL
- 2003 "Epoch", Stella, Rathmines, Co Dublin, IRL

Charity Auctions

- 2015 DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal
- 2010 "Haiti Benefit Auction" New York
"For the Love of Animals" Argos animal sanctuary, Nicosia
- 2009 "Save the Date", Kensal Rise, London

Publications

- 2017 "Porn Hurts Everyone" Footfall (Self Published)
- 2011 "Good Rats", Pau Wau Publications

ABOUT SID MOTION GALLERY:

Sid Motion Gallery, which opened in June 2016, is an independent art gallery exhibiting contemporary art and photography. The gallery aims to bring a range of fresh, vibrant artists working in different media to this new gallery space in Kings Cross. Sid Motion Gallery introduces a forum for conversation, education and development through a varied programme of emerging artists.

142 York Way, London N1 0AX

Opening Hours: Thursday - Saturday, 12 - 6pm and by appointment

Contact - Gallery Director / Founder, Sid Motion: info@sidmotiongallery.co.uk / www.sidmotiongallery.co.uk

ABOUT BAKUL PATKI:

Bakul Patki is a specialist in curation, production and promotion across the arts. She works independently for arts institutions, individual artists, galleries and festivals as well as charities, brands and developers who have an interest in working within and supporting creativity.

She has curated and produced a number photographic exhibitions, including: 'Superman's Pockets' by Timothy Foster at the Covent Garden Piazza, London - 'Good Rats' by Niall O'Brien at Art Work Space, London - 'Double Exposure' by Bay Garnett and Tom Craig at Maison Louis Vuitton, London - 'E:2012' by Giles Price at the Crossing, Granary Square, London - and 'Amazon' featuring the work of Per-Anders Pettersson and Sebastião Salgado at Somerset House, London, and the Gallery of Photography, Dublin.

As well co-curating 'Three Cities' by Niall O'Brien, she will be curating and producing 'The Kingdom' by Aidan O'Neill at Bermondsey Art Space, to coincide with Photo London 2018,

Contact - Bakul Patki: b@bakulpatki.com / +447984462358

Ends.