



POLLY PENROSE
10 Seconds
Self Portraits 2014 -16

6 - 8 May 2016
Preview 5 May, 6.30pm
Hoxton Gallery, 59 Old St, London EC1V 9HX

"Polly's pictures are sometimes humorous, sometimes melancholy, always bewitching". Tim Walker

Contemporary photographer **Polly Penrose** presents her new series of self portraits at a London preview next month - **10 Seconds** pops up at **Hoxton Gallery**, in East London, from 6th until 8th May.

Rising star, female artist and mother of two, Penrose studied Graphic Design and went on to work for acclaimed photographer Tim Walker before dedicating her time to her own artistic practice. She exhibited her first solo show *A Body of Work* (self portraits 2007 – 2014) at Downstairs at Mother Gallery in 2014.

For her second exhibition, at Hoxton Gallery, she will showcase four new series all taken on a 10 second self timer and shot between 2014 and 2016: *Pool Party*, shot in Ibiza; *I was Never Good at Yoga*, shot using meditation and yoga equipment as prosthetic extensions of the artist's body and *Paper Work*, where Penrose's body takes on the challenge of using colourama paper to become 'something else'. These series will be accompanied by the ongoing project *A Body of Work*, shown in the second room.

Penrose began taking photographs when she was a teen. She would aim the camera towards herself investigating her emotions, body and identity. Her first self portrait was taken on a day she was upset with her father. She wrapped a rope around her body, shot a photo and sent it to him to communicate her feelings.

The exhibition showcases an ongoing dialogue developed over the course of the years, from the artist "hammering her body into the landscape one picture at a time", as she says, to getting centre stage, moulding herself into her own muse - a transition from a more intense, passionate attempt to a lighter, more meditative and ironic viewpoint. All framed by the passage of time and changing scenarios.

Polly's head is always removed from the photographs. Her identity changes, in every picture she becomes an integral part of the landscape or an object.

"The most recent work is objects interacting with my body. Much more of a physical transaction. Tactile forms shaped together making a temporary sculpture from my body and everyday objects. My ongoing project a Body of Work instead is a response to a space and its contents. It is a physical conversation between me and the space."

In her works Penrose seems to reverse Michelangelo's view, "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free". As a sculptor whose works do not magically appear, it takes hard physical work. She must carve her own form with sweat and pain to become each piece, and this is somehow liberating and healing for the artist.

"I enjoy the pain of shooting my self in extreme circumstances, bruising to climb a piece of furniture, damaging a shoulder muscle while twisting, sweating in Ibiza's August heat, it makes me 'Feel'. Pushing something, there is a satisfaction I gain from being able to go through the physical discomfort to the achievement of the final image."

In this creative act Penrose participates at every stage. She takes the role of carver, muse and creation at the same time, forming a dynamic narrative written in 10 Seconds and witnessed in the final photographs.

All images have an organic, simple aesthetic, highlighted by the title *10 Seconds* - the time Penrose takes to 'get her work done'.

"Body liberation through the lens - Polly Penrose frees women from body anxiety by exploring her own identity through these striking nudes." Huffington Post

Polly Penrose: 10 Seconds

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Private View 5 May, 6.30pm

Hoxton Gallery

59 Old Street London EC1V 9HX

www.pollypenrose.com

<http://www.hoxtongallery.com>

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RSVP Lisa Baker Associates

priscilla@lisabakerltd.com

For press information and images please contact:

Priscilla Granozio

Tel: +44 (0) 780 9601 635

Email: priscilla@lisabakerltd.com

Polly Penrose Biography

Polly Penrose studied Graphic Design at Camberwell College of Arts in London. She went on to work in Fashion Styling and after that worked for the photographer Tim Walker. She has always taken photographs, but started to focus on her practice when she entered and won a competition held by the London Photographic Association in 2008. She held her first solo show, 'A Body of Work', at Downstairs at Mother Gallery, London, in May 2014. She was part of a group show, Dear Sylvia, at the Australian Centre for Photography in Sydney, March 2015 and the Hellerau Photography Award, in February 2016. She was shortlisted for the D&AD Photography Next Photographer Award in April 2015. Her work has been featured by media including Dazed, The British Journal of Photography and The Huffington Post.