



Veins

Adrian Davies

The output, Veins, is an exhibition comprising a series of photographs.

Research Process

The photographs within the series present a view of mega cities within the Far East. Examining the relationships between images of the familiar utopian city skyline to those captured on the ground at close range. The series highlights the infrastructures that ensure a city has services to function. Often hidden from view, these essential city veins of wires and pipes expand as the city evolves and strangely mimic the organic growth of nature. The series shows a city in development that is not a part of an architectural design for urban utopia. It reflects on global connectivity through photographs being made within a number of mega cities within the far east. The edit and scale of images selected is an important aspect, as multiple images are used to highlight connections between cities within a number of countries.

Research Insights

The series comments on the wider themes of globalisation and homogenisation. A photograph depicting a model of a city is included within the series, but is not instantly recognisable as such within the exhibition. This helps to raise the question of pre-perceived visions and altered realities of the city environment. Exploring approaches to photographic practice is considered and the relationship of travel photography to the personal experience of being in a specific location to photograph is reflected upon.

Dissemination

The work was selected for the theme 'Cities of Exchange' for the Liverpool Look International Photography Festival and was disseminated at Cities of Exchange: a small view gallery, as part of the festival.

Adrian Davies

Veins

Exhibition - 7/4/17 to 14/5/17

Cities of Exchange.

Look 17 -

Liverpool International Photography Festival.

'A Small View Gallery'. Liverpool.



CITIES OF EXCHANGE: A SMALL VIEW

8th April - 14th May 2017

Open Saturdays, 1-5pm

Opening Event: Friday 7th April 2017

LOOK / 17

LIVERPOOL
INTERNATIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHY
FESTIVAL

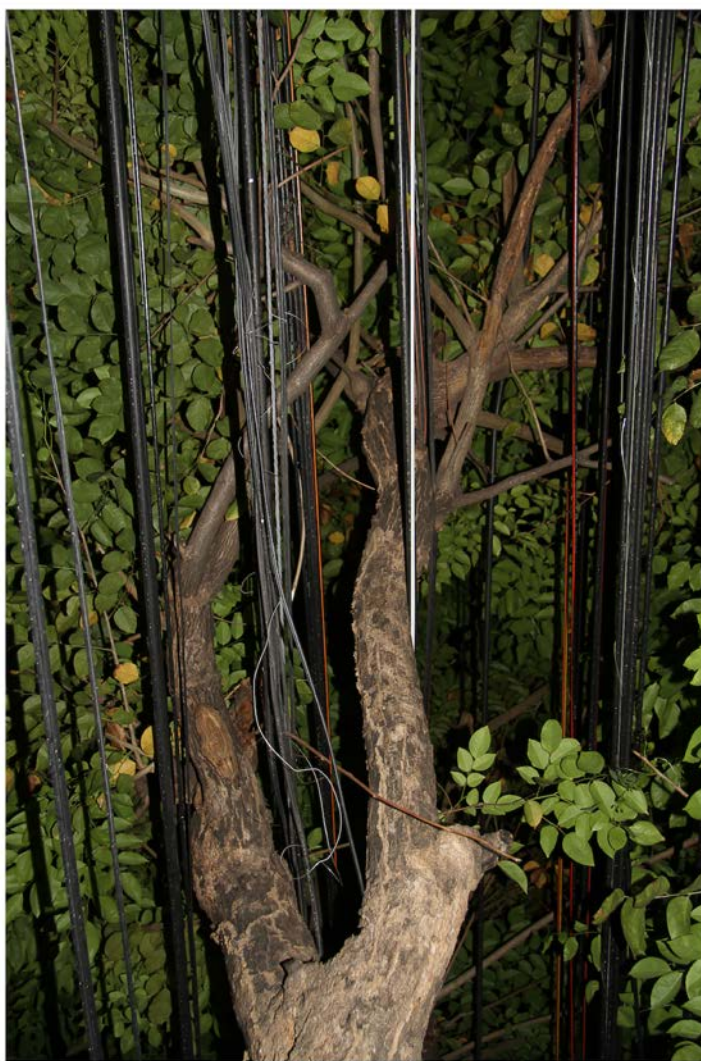


LOOK/17 LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

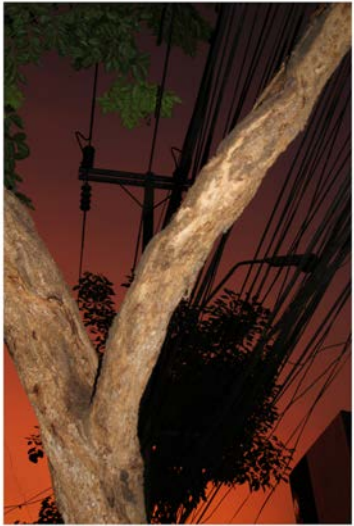
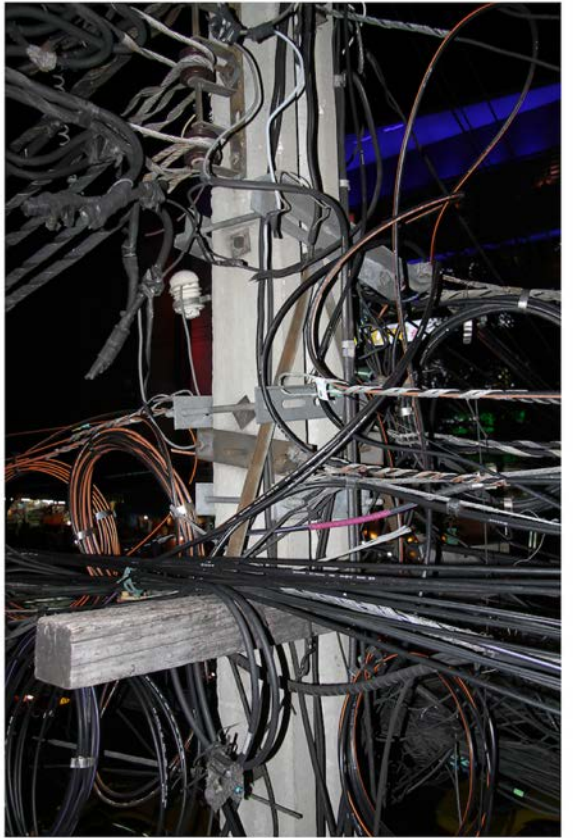


LOOK17 / ADRIAN DAVIES





Photographs included in the exhibition



CITIES OF EXCHANGE: LIVERPOOL / HONG KONG

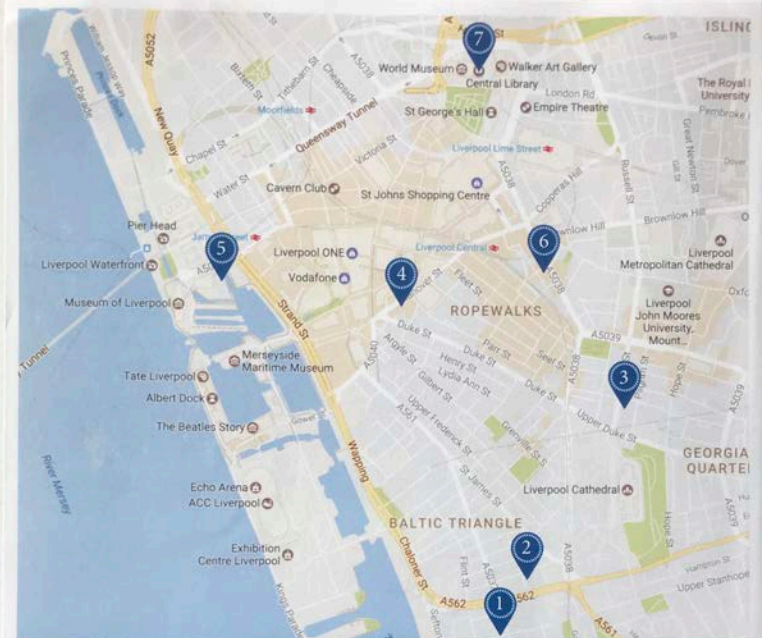
7th April - 14th May 2017

LOOK/17/

LOOK/17 presents a unique opportunity for trans-global sharing of images and ideas, welcoming Chinese photographers and exploring photography in Hong Kong and Liverpool – cities with a long history of exchange.

The **FRINGE PROGRAMME** features the work of organisations & photographers in venues across Liverpool from heritage sites to alternative spaces.

ALEC AARONS A Change of Scenery Venue: A Small View	CHAN HONG YUI CLEMENT Z-Axis Venue: Egg Café	BENJAMIN MCDONNELL Open Cities Venue: Open Eye Gallery Download app: Echoes.xyz Search: 'Open Cities'	GEMMA THORPE Near and Far Venue: Constellations
ROBERT BATTERSBY Making China Venue: Constellations	JASMIN CHONG Reframing Identity: Hong Kong Venue: Constellations	PETER MEARNES What You Imagine You Create Venue: Egg Café	DANIEL WALLIS The People Below Venue: Egg Café
JAMES H BOLLEN Wallpaper Venue: Constellations	ADRIAN DAVIES Veins Venue: A Small View	MICHAEL JAMES O'BRIEN His Tender Heir Venue: The Gallery Liverpool	MICHAEL WALLS The Book of Squares Venue: Constellations
GEOFF BROKATE On the Perimeter Venue: Constellations	SHIRA GUTGOLD Spaces for Living Venue: Constellations	KATE PETERS One Child Policy Venue: Egg Café	BERTHA WANG Trace of British Colonial Hong Kong Venue: A Small View
EDWARD CHAMBRE HARDMAN Edward Chamber Hardman Photography Venue: Hardmans' House	MICHAEL KIRKHAM Urban Goals Venue: Central Library	TRISTAN POYSER Automation Venue: Constellations	CARLTON DOUGLAS WATT Urbanism Venue: Constellations
CHRIS LEE Made in China Venue: Constellations	MARC PROVINS #808080 Venue: Constellations	JON WYATT Huangshan Ltd Venue: Constellations	



1. The Gallery Liverpool 8th-30th April 41 Stanhope Street Liverpool, L8 5RE Artists: Michael James O'Brien	2. Constellations 7th-23rd April 35-39 Greenland St Liverpool, L1 0BS Artists: Carlton D Watt, Chris Lee, Gemma Thorpe, Geoff Brokate, James H Bollen, Jasmin Chong, Jon Wyatt, Marc Provins, Michael Walls, Robert Battersby, Shira Gutgold & Tristan Poyser	3. Hardmans' House 7th-12th May 59 Rodney St Liverpool, L1 9ER Artist: Edward Chamber Hardman	4. A Small View 7th April-14th May First Floor Gostins Arcade 32-36 Hanover Street Liverpool, L1 4LN Artists: Adrian Davies, Alec Aarons, Bertha Wang
5. Open Eye Gallery 7th-14th May 19 Mann Island Liverpool Waterfront Liverpool, L3 1BP Artist: Benjamin McDonnell	6. Egg Café 7th April-14th May Top Floor 16 - 18 Newington Liverpool, L1 4ED Artists: Chan Hong Yui Clement, Daniel Wallis, Kate Peters & Peter Mearns	7. Central Library 7th-27th April Library & Archive Central Library & Archive, William Brown Street Liverpool, L3 8EW Artist: Michael Kirkham	

Publication – Exhibition guide



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A Small View

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#look/17



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APRIL 6, 2017

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Social Media postings by Gallery during the installation of work



asmallview As usual, we're open today until 5pm. Come check out our photography exhibition, on as part of the Look/17 festival fringe 🍦👀🔍



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Examples of social media postings by Gallery

↻ A Small View Retweeted



LookPhotoFest @LookPhotoFest · 12 May 2017

Adrian Davies talks to #LOOK17 about his micro and macro visions of Hong Kong @Asmallview lookphotofestivalblog.wordpress.com/2017/05/12/look17-adrian-davies/



A Small View

12 May 2017 · 🌐

One of our artists has been interviewed by Look/17 📌 Saturday is your last chance to see the show!

<https://lookphotofestivalblog.wordpress.com/.../look17-adrian-davies/>



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LOOK17 / Adrian Davies

Adrian Davies' work reflects on global connectivity. His exhibition at A...

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LOOK17 / ADRIAN DAVIES

Adrian Davies' work reflects on global connectivity. His exhibition at A Small View presents micro and macro visions of Hong Kong – here he talks to LOOK17 about photographing as a returning visitor and the relationship of utopian city skyline images to those captured on the ground. The work was made during a number of [...]

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Interview featured on festival blog - <https://lookphotofestivalblog.wordpress.com/2017/05/12/look17-adrian-davies/>

Adrian Davies' work reflects on global connectivity. His exhibition at A Small View presents micro and macro visions of Hong Kong – here he talks to LOOK17 about photographing as a returning visitor and the relationship of utopian city skyline images to those captured on the ground.

The work was made during a number of visits to Hong Kong, also Shanghai and cities in parts of East Asia. I'm looking at these cities that are evolving growing, changing. I was interested in the micro – and the overview. Within the exhibition there are relationships between images – city views that are quite small so that details are lost. They become like model places (there is actually a view included in the exhibition of a model view of Shanghai). This is the visualised expectation of a city, which is quite futuristic looking. I show these with large scale prints of what I call the 'veins' of the city, power cables, pipes – the infrastructure of the city. I'm interested in the relationship between how these grow outside of that utopian vision of a city – that these buildings that are monumental from a distance, have all these wires and cables going in to support all of that growth. I'm playing with the relationship between what cities could be – the architectural plan, and then this free form organic growth.



Could you tell us a bit about when you visited what was your reason for being there, what lead you to start taking those photographs, was it part of a bigger series? Or something standalone whilst you were visitor to a new city?

I was fortunate to be in a position where I was visiting a number of cities over a couple of years, consecutively, so I was able to make links between places having been to Shanghai after Hong Kong, Thailand, Tokyo – a whole series of visits that enabled me to think about making work that I could collate together, looking for similarities and also looking for differences, thinking about that relationship with what matters here in the UK. But it was the second time of going back to some of these cities that enabled a different view. There was a familiarity. And because I'd already taken photographs there, it meant that I was quite comfortable shooting and making connections between what I'd already shot.

The larger scale images in the exhibition reveal an ad hoc network of spliced cables and trunking reaching over doorways or between lush greenery. To what extent are you thinking about global or digital connectivity and exchange between places?

That's exactly it – those connections between the cities, I'm looking for similarities, so I was looking for connections. And I think that organic nature – in the way those larger scale images depict those things it looks like it could be a plant blossoming, that organic growth, it goes across all of those photographs so they are inter-related. So those cables connect to other cables, its that idea – there's a metaphor there of the links between images and cities.



It seems that where you are in the world is quite important – for example, the expectation might be from somewhere far away, or the photograph within a place, how does that relate to that idea of connectivity, where you can be somewhere and not be somewhere at the same time? And how the internet creates expectations of a place compared to being there in the very real and intimate way of actually being there and holding something.

I've been exploring how important it is to be in a location in other projects – the way that you experience or view something, so those cityscapes, there is no experience in those images. Because they are quite distance almost like they could have been photographed aerially, there's no connection with the city, whereas these other images, they're shot with flash, its almost like catching the moment of the experience of noticing and trying to understand something. So for me that experience of photographing is about me responding, and thinking later how they connect.



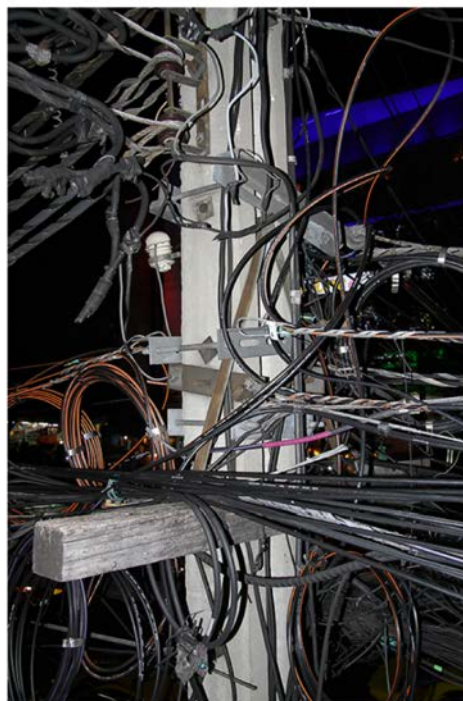
The inversion of scale is quite interesting in that respect.

It's how I respond to that experience, and I think the details are what you take away. I think about the views from a plane, and how I recognised the skylines, particularly with Hong Kong when it's at night and the buildings were all lit up, there are lots of touristy images of that view – that was already in my mind. How do the predetermined images I have in my mind of these places form what I expect from the cities compared to my experience of actually being there?



The future city and the cabling and connectivity that represents something futuristic or utopian actually looks archaic and chaotic

That was what excited me about going to those mega cities. I look at those cities – they're cities with a lot of growth that are changing quite rapidly – but that makes them quite exciting – that they are the future. The skylines change through growth, buildings becoming bigger and bigger, which developing city is going to build the biggest skyscraper – how that view, that utopian architectural plan of this future city is so opposing to that reality of those infrastructures that are growing to try and cope with all that development – that's why I got driven to photograph this series. I'd seen images of what these cities look like previously, but the reality of those cities is very different – the experience on the ground.



You've mentioned that on return visits to Hong Kong you are making connections with what you have already photographed there previously – you look out for those similar things, so it's your mind (or camera) that is the link between those places, you're relating what you see back to what you already seen. The eye instinctively looks for the familiar.

I suppose that's what's interesting about photography to me – that you always go back and photograph what you've photographed before, because you're drawn to those things. It's about finding what is interesting to you.

Tomorrow is the last chance to catch Adrian Davies' work at LOOK17

LOOK17 Fringe exhibition at A Small View open Saturdays throughout #LOOK17 featuring work by Adrian Davies, Alec Aarons and Bertha Wang

www.asmallview.co.uk

A Small View
First Floor
Gostins Arcade
32-36 Hanover Street
Liverpool
L1 4LN

IMAGE CREDITS
ADRIAN DAVIES, FROM THE SERIES VEINS, 2017

Interview by Anna Taylor
www.anna-taylor.net / www.backburner.org.uk

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BRISTOL: Jane
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Photo Talks

leeds: china with adrian davies and yan wang preston, 6th june '18

In Leeds this June we are looking into photographic representations of China with two photographers who have been working to explore the land and culture of one of the worlds most populated countries.

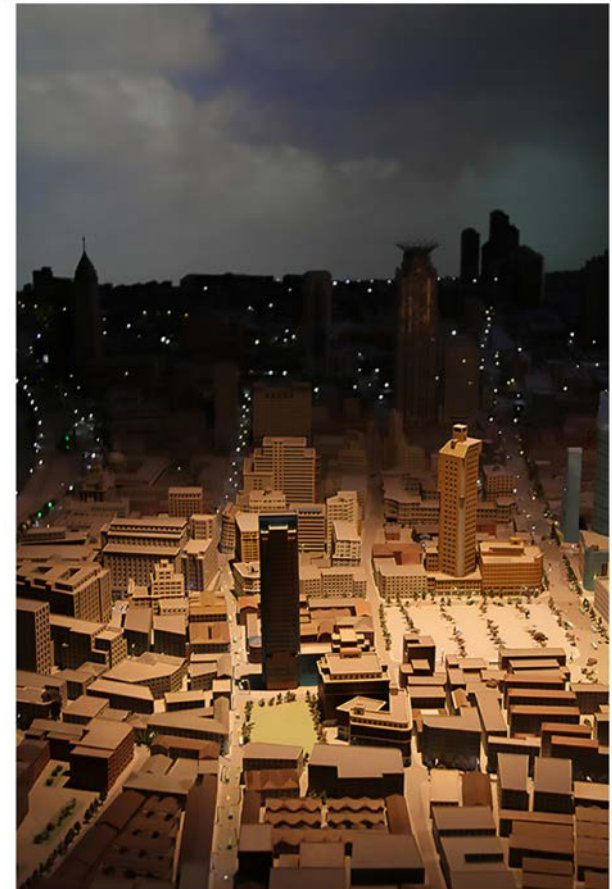
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Wednesday 6th June, 2018. Doors at 6pm, kicks off at 7pm. **The Brunswick, Leeds.**

Free Entry.

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Adrian Davies



Adrian Davies' work reflects on global connectivity. Often incorporating a multi faceted approach to photographic image making to comment on the themes of globalisation and cultural homogenisation. Whilst also highlighting the relationship of the photographic act and the experience of being in a specific location to photograph.

The series 'Veins' presents a vision of mega cities in the Far East. Examining the relationships between the utopian city skyline images to those captured on the ground. The series highlights the infrastructures that ensure a city has services to function. Often hidden from view, these essential city veins of wires and pipes expand as the city evolves and strangely mimic the organic growth of nature. The series show a city in development that is not a part of an architectural design for urban utopia.

Public Talk –

<https://miniclick.co.uk/2018/05/24/leeds-china-with-adrian-davies-and-yan-wang-preston-6th-june-18/>



Miniclick @miniclicktalks · 6 Jun 2018



"It's that idea of why we need to photograph things and do we really need to be there to photograph it" Adrian Davies here in Leeds

