

## **Brief Biography**

**Lisa Furness** was born in London in 1980, studied in Aberystwyth 1999-2002 before moving to Bristol in 2003. Her photography explores the complex relationship between present and past inherent in man-made structures.

In Bristol, she developed a passion for photographing empty human spaces, abandoned buildings and streets at night. Creating a photography of atmosphere, absence and presence, a forensic look at the values and priorities of our culture through an aesthetic exploration of the spaces we create. These images received an excellent critical response, and confirmed there was something worth pursuing in this work. In 2011, she further developed this style in order to explore wider political and economic questions and conditions.

In October 2011 she toured Occupy camps in the UK, photographing spaces and conducting interviews with and making portraits of the occupiers. This led to 'Occupation Installation', in Bristol in April 2012 marking the 6 month anniversary of the movement. This event was a month long series of public installations showing her own material and that collected from others telling stories from these worldwide protest camps.

Since 2003, she has been deeply involved in the Bristol community arts scene. She founded and coordinated a photography association called Second Look, offering accessible photographic events, including exhibitions, competitions, an annual photomathon, photo lectures and skills sharing workshops. She has twice coordinated the Easton Arts Trail, a weekend event showing the work of hundreds of artists across multiple venues. She has also helped to set up and provide events for the Bristol Festival of Photography.

Lisa left Bristol in 2012 and started a nomadic life on the hunt for man-made spaces that tell a political or cultural story. She is also working on a book on the relocation and metamorphoses of the Central Library in Weston-Super-Mare with Matt Webber. In December 2012, she signalled this change of direction at an exhibition in London, in collaboration with photographer Adrian Nettlehip.

Lisa left the UK in February 2013 to start a project based in Barcelona looking at the politics of property and the battles for public and private spaces across Europe, with a special focus on radical, underground projects in Spain.

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