

THE BULLY PULPIT

Haley Morris-Cafiero

Exhibition Dates: 5 April – 18 May 2019

Exhibition Preview: Thursday 4 April, 6-9pm

Artist Talk & Book Launch: Thursday 18 April, 6pm



IMAGE: Untitled, from the series *The Bully Pulpit* © Haley Morris-Cafiero

Belfast Exposed is delighted to present *The Bully Pulpit* by Haley Morris-Cafiero, an exhibition curated by Deirdre Robb. Morris-Cafiero's latest photography series investigates the social phenomenon of cyber bullying in the age of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Apparently anonymous, hidden behind their computer screens, some people bully others, and have done so for years. The prevalence of online bullying has encouraged countless more to mete out these abusive acts, apparently preying on those weaker than themselves.

Morris-Cafiero photographed herself costumed like the people who've attempted to bully her. Finding photos online, she recreated their images using wigs, clothing, and simple prosthetics, while small imperfections mirror the fallacy that the internet will shield their identities. Finally, Morris-Cafiero overlays the parodies with transcript of the bullying comments, almost as if she were 'subtweeting' them.

Morris-Cafiero's inspiration for *The Bully Pulpit* was the myriad of people who wrote mean-spirited comments about her after *Wait Watchers* was published in emails, tweets, Instagram posts, blogs and online comments sections. But instead of responding individually to 'deaf ears', Morris-Cafiero realised that a parody on social media, online articles, and blogs - the same vehicles for her own potential hurt - would be seen by millions, and would live again, again, and again.

QUOTES

"I believe photography has an unspoken power that can present a topic through a different visual lens and connect people through experience and emotion. It has the ability to change the way one thinks about the world, can spark a conversation, and create awareness about important social issues.

*Using photography, this is what Haley Morris-Cafiero has done with this new body of work, *The Bully Pulpit*, by addressing the many facets of cyber bullying, and the 'right back at you' approach, she brings attention as to how art can educate, create awareness and possible social change. The work is both clever and challenging, and I look forward to the public's response to her rebuttable of a trolling community reaction to her internet sensation, *Wait Watchers*"*

- Deirdre Robb, Chief Executive, Belfast Exposed

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bully Pulpit at Belfast Exposed is generously supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council.

IMAGE USE

Please contact Belfast Exposed directly to request image files for press use. If you would like to use high res files or additional images, permission must be requested from Belfast Exposed Marketing & Training Manager, Conor O'Brien at c.obrien@belfastexposed.org

NOTES FOR EDITOR

- Thursday 4 April, 6-9pm: Exhibition Preview
- Thursday 18 April, 6pm: Artist Talk & Book Launch
- Thursday 2 May, 6-9pm: Late Night Art

Free exhibition tours are available for groups. Please contact us to arrange a booking.

Please contact Marketing & Training Manager, Conor O'Brien at c.obrien@belfastexposed.org or +44 (0) 2890230965 for additional information / press images / tour bookings.

Website: www.belfastexposed.org
Facebook: @BXGallery
Instagram: @bx_gallery
Twitter: @belfastexposed

ADDITIONAL PRESS IMAGES

1. Untitled, from the series from *The Bully Pulpit* © Haley Morris-Cafiero



2. Untitled, from the series from *The Bully Pulpit* © Haley Morris-Cafiero



3. Untitled, from the series from *The Bully Pulpit* © Haley Morris-Cafiero



4. Untitled, from the series from *The Bully Pulpit* © Haley Morris-Cafiero



5. Untitled, from the series from *The Bully Pulpit* © Haley Morris-Cafiero



6. Untitled, from the series from *The Bully Pulpit* © Haley Morris-Cafiero



Belfast Exposed
23 Donegall Street
Belfast
BT1 2FF

www.belfastexposed.org
info@belfastexposed.org
+44 (0) 2890230965

About Belfast Exposed

Belfast Exposed is Northern Ireland's premier contemporary photography organisation, commissioning, publishing and showing work by artists and photographers from Northern Ireland and across the world. We believe photography is for everyone, it is accessible, meaningful and has the ability to tell stories, allowing us to create dialogue that reflects upon our history, informs our present and inspires a positive future.



Belfast
City Council