

STREET VIEW: NOEL BOWLER

Noel Bowler

5th August to 25th September | Street View



Image © Niall Bowler

Street View: Noel Bowler

Belfast Exposed is proud to present Street View: Noel Bowler, which features the project Above The Fold by artist Noel Bowler.

Above The Fold is the culmination of an ambitious long-term project (2012-2020) from Irish artist Noel Bowler. Using his signature medium format film camera to photograph newspaper

newsrooms across Europe, the United States and Asia, his unique project shows us the physical space and the structural layers that have formed the foundation of our modern press.

Made over an eight-year-period and working together with a cross-section of some of the largest newspapers (by paid circulation) from around the world, these photographs take the viewer on a journey through decades of human interaction that has helped to form the foundation of the free press as we know it today. The work of the newspaper and journalism movement has never been so relevant for so many throughout the globe. This timely work continues Bowler's ongoing consideration of the political forces that shape our world and the importance in sustaining the foundation of a free and trustworthy press.

Ever since the rapid increase in literacy rates during the 19th century, newspapers have been inextricably associated with the development of modern society through the production of political meta-narratives, the dissemination of information and the framing of the debate. With declining readership in the 21st century, reduced advertising and persistent questions about "truth" and relevance, the structures of print media are in a state of flux. Unlike the multifaceted and dispersed nature of online news media, the physical spaces of the newspaper office has been shaped by many years of evolution, adaptation and work practices that straddle both public-interest rationales and commercial objectives. This project reinforces the importance that people have played in the role of print news media and acts as a reminder of both the value and relevance of the journalist. These photographs offer us a glimpse into the places where the decisions and policies that affect so many are created. While these places may be separated by geography, culture and politics, they are all inherently linked by one fundamental attribute; the commitment to inform, educate and reinforce the importance of a free and honest press.

"I have been a big fan of Bowler's work since he launched his book Union in Belfast Exposed a few years ago. In this work Bowler offers rare glimpses into places where newspaper newsroom is devoid of the people who create the narratives and mayhem and orderly work practices. This exhibition offers behind the scenes photographs that reveal more than just their stories" Deirdre Robb, Chief Executive, Belfast Exposed

Notes for Editors

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.

Artist Biography

Noel Bowler is a photographer and educator. Born in Ireland, he holds an MFA in photography from the University of Ulster, Belfast and a BA (Hons) degree in Documentary Photography from the University of Wales, Newport. His work has been exhibited worldwide including New York Photofestival, Dali International Festival, Yunnan, China, with recent solo exhibitions in Gallery of Photography, Ireland, Impressions Gallery, England and RPS Gallery, Tokyo. Previous bodies of

work include *Union* – A look at the spaces of organised labour. He was nominated for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize in 2011 and for the Prix Pictet Photography Prize in both 2012 and 2015. His latest book *Above The Fold* will be published in 2021. Noel's photographs, exhibitions and publications continue to look at the ongoing consideration of the political forces that shape our world, reflected through the organisation of social space. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Photography at the University of Suffolk.

Exhibition Events

Exhibition Dates: 5th August – 25th September
Exhibition Opening: Thursday 5th August, 6pm-9pm

Acknowledgments

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Image Use

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Press Images



Image © Noel Bowler



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