

# SUSAN DERGES

Susan Derges trained as a painter before turning to photography, and in particular to the cameraless photography for which she, along with contemporaries such as Adam Fuss and Garry Fabian Miller, has become internationally renowned. This simple, elegant process was used in very early photography and, in essence, allows the artist to fix shadows onto light sensitive paper. Removing the camera allows an almost alchemical transformation, to extraordinary and powerful effect.

Much of Derges's recent work has been made at night in the open air; using the natural world as her darkroom she has quite literally invented a new way of making pictures. In her newest series, Derges has tracked the night sky with a camera and returned to the darkroom to combine camera based and camera-less techniques that result in images that are at once recognisable, and yet not quite what they seem.

Susan Derges has work in museums and public collections all over the world, including the Hara Art Museum, Tokyo, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and MOMA, San Francisco. In October 2010, Susan Derges was one of five artists selected for the exhibition *Shadow Catchers*, a major survey of camera-less photography at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. *A Little Bit of Magic Realised*; an exhibition at Ingleby, ran parallel to *Shadow Catchers*, and focused on the wider career of Susan Derges and Garry Fabian Miller in the context of early historical photographic experiments.

## Biography

1955	Born in London, UK
1973-76	Studied painting at Chelsea School of Art, London, UK (BA Hons)
1976-77	British Council/DAAD Scholarship to Berlin
1977-79	Postgraduate Studies at The Slade School of Fine Art, London, UK
1979	Boise Travel Scholarship to The Netherlands
1981-82	Rotary Foundation Award, Japan
1982-83	Postgraduate Research at Tsukuba University, Ibaraki, Japan
1984	JVC Award, Japan
1993	South West Arts Major Award
1993-98	Lecturer, Media Arts, University of Plymouth, Exeter, UK
1997	Visiting lecturer/guest speaker at Mills College, Oakland, California, USA
1997-99	External Examiner – BA Fine Art Photography at Middlesex University, Middlesex, UK

Currently lives and works in Devon

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

2019	<i>Mortal Moon</i> , Queen's House, London, UK
2018	<i>Soul of the Underground</i> , Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2016	<i>Susan Derges – 25 Years</i> , Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
2015	<i>Under the Moon</i> , Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2013	<i>Susan Derges – New Work</i> , Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
2012	<i>Alder Brook</i> , Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2010	<i>A Little Bit of Magic Realised</i> , Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

- 2009 *New Work*, Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan  
Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
- 2008 Johyun Gallery, Seoul and Busan, South Korea  
*Susan Derges & Hildegard von Bingen*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2006 Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK  
*Azure*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2005 Photographs Without a Camera, Gallery 314, Bergen, Norway
- 2004 *Dark Waters*, The Terrace Gallery Harwood House, Leeds, UK  
*Water*, Foto Fest 2004, Houston, Texas,  
*Recent Work*, Nichido Gallery, Paris, France  
*Liquid form*, Ediciones Wu, Lima, Peru
- 2003 *New Work*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA  
Retrospective show Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo Design Centre, Tokyo, Japan  
*Susan Derges*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2002 *New Work*, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK
- 2001 *Natural Magic*, Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, UK
- 1999 *Woman Thinking River*, James Danziger Gallery, New York, USA  
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
*Recent Work*, Michael Hue Williams Fine Art, London, UK
- 1998 *River Taw*, Newlyn Art Gallery, Newlyn, Cornwall, UK, Musee D'Elysee, Lausanne, Switzerland  
Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK
- 1997 *River Taw*, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK
- 1995 *The Print Room*, The Photographers Gallery, London, UK  
James Danziger Gallery, New York, USA  
*Embodied*, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, UK
- 1994 *The Observer and the Observed*, James Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
- 1993 *Between Sun and Earth*, The Photographers Gallery, London, UK
- 1989 Gallery ON, Poznan, Poland  
Tokyo Science Museum, Exploratorium, Tokyo, Japan (video)
- 1987 O Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (video)
- 1985 JVC VIC Centre, Tokyo, Japan (video)  
Gallery Okazaki, Tokyo, Japan
- 1984 Art Space Niji, Kyoto, Japan

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2020 *Squaring the Circles of Confusion*, Royal Photographic Society, Bristol, UK  
*Sea Garden*, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK
- 2019 *Criminal Ornamentation: Yinka Shonibare MBE curates the Art Council Collection*, Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester, UK  
*Moonlight*, Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenberg, Sweden

- 2018 *Jacob's Ladder*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK  
*TWENTY*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
- 2015 *Still Moving*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore  
*Beneath the Surface*, Somerset House, London, UK  
*Watershed; Art, Play and the Politics of Water*, Bexley Heritage Trust
- 2014 *Shadows on the Wall: Cameraless Photography from 1851 to Today*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
*de Marseillaise/ Fifteen Years of Collecting*, Huis Marseille, Netherlands  
*Natural Order*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London  
*Photomonth*, Krakow  
*Power of the Sea*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol  
*Apiculture: Bees and the Art of Pollination*, Peninsula Arts, Plymouth
- 2013 *Once upon a time and a very good time it was...* Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2011 *Infinite Balance: Artists and the Environment*, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California, USA  
*Dust On The Mirror*, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore
- 2010 *A Little Bit of Magic Realised* (with Garry Fabian Miller) Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Coast*, Zuiderzee Museum, Enkhuizen, The Netherlands  
*Shadow Catchers*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
*Dust on the Mirror*, Djanogly Art Gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham UK (toured to Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore)
- 2008 *Water*, Prix Pictet, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
*Paris Photo*, Paris, France  
*Night A time Between*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, UK  
*The History of Photography*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
*Night*, RWA Galleries, Bristol, UK  
*On Time*, The East Wing Collection VIII, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK
- 2007 *Picturing Eden*, The Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California, USA  
*Something That I'll Never Really See: Contemporary Photography from the V&A*, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, UK  
*Trace and Transience*, Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, Exeter, UK
- 2006-8 *Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics*, The Field Museum, Chicago, USA (touring)
- 2006-7 *Alchemy*, Harewood House, Leeds, UK (touring)
- 2006 *Picturing Eden*, George Eastman House, New York, USA  
*Bodies of Water*, Victoria Art Gallery, Bath, UK  
Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton, UK
- 2005 *Made in Britain*, Huis Marseille stichting voor fotografie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2004 *Lightfall*, Brewhouse, Taunton, UK  
*Photo Synthesis*, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK  
*From Here To Eternity*, with Vija Celmins, Garry Fabian Miller, Richard Long, James Turrell, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Now Showing IV*, Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK  
*FotoFest 2004 – The Tenth International Month of Photography*, FotoFest, Texas, USA  
*Making Faces: The Death of the Portrait*, Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2003 *Recycling Lucifers Fall*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK  
*Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
*Synthetic Lightning – Complex Simulations of Nature*, The Center for Photography at Woodstock, New York, USA

- Cara a Cara, Culturgest – Gestão de Espaços Culturais*, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2002 *Four Photographers*, with Garry Fabian Miller, David Williams, Patricia Macdonald, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Now What is Photography?* Gana Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea  
*Metamorphing*, Science Museum, London, UK
- 2001 *Summer Exhibition* Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA  
*From The Dark Room*, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK  
*Sea Change*, Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK
- 2000 *Particle Accelerators: At the Intersection of Photography*, Science and Technology, Photographic Resource Center, Boston, USA  
*This is Not a Photograph*, Choate Art Gallery, Pace University, USA  
*Summer 2000 Unique Photographs*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA  
*Anti-Memory*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan  
*Now! Modern Photographs from the Permanent Collection*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
- 1999 *Phenomena*, The Ansel Adams Gallery, California, San Francisco, USA  
Ingleby Gallery (with Patricia Macdonald), Edinburgh, UK  
*20 Twenty*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1998 *Woods and Water*, Kettles Yard, Cambridge, UK  
*River Taw*, Inverleith House, Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh, UK  
*Dust Breeding*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
*Silver and Syrup*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1997-98 *About Painting*, Robert Miller Gallery, New York, USA
- 1997 *Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures XI*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1996 *Under the Sun*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
*Elective Affinities*, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK  
*Light, Time, Focus*, The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, USA  
*Eye of the Beholder: Photographs from the Avon Collection*, International Centre of Photography, New York, USA
- 1995 *Possibilities of Extention*, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth, UK  
*Heavens Embroidered Cloths*, National Museum of Film, Photography and Television, Bradford, UK
- 1994 *Wellsprings*, The Bath Festival, Bath, UK  
*Growth and Form*, The Ruskin Gallery, Sheffield, UK  
*Umbra Penumbra*, Signals: Festival of Women Photographers, throughout the UK
- 1992 Salama-Caro Gallery, London, UK  
*New Inhabitants*, Royal Albert Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter, UK
- 1991 *Post Modern Prints*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
*New Acquisitions*, The Arts Council Collection, London, UK  
Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK  
*Cameraless Photography*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan  
*Content and Discontent in Today's Photography*, The Ansel Adams Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
Centre for Photography, San Francisco, USA
- 1989 *Machine Dreams*, The Photographers Gallery, London, UK  
AVE Festival of Audio Visual Arts, Arnhem, The Netherlands  
Phenomenart Saibu Gas Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1991 *Post Modern Prints*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
*New Acquisitions*, The Arts Council Collection, London, UK

Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK  
*Cameraless Photography*, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan  
*Content and Discontent in Today's Photography*, The Ansel Adams Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
Centre for Photography, San Francisco, USA

- 1985 High Technology Art Seibu Department Store, Tokyo, Japan
- 1984 Hara Annual, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1978 The Hayward Annual, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

### **Selected Collections**

Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
Arts Council of England, UK  
Arnolfini Trust, Bristol, UK  
The Citibank Private Bank Collection, London, UK  
The Eden Project, Cornwall, UK  
NatWest Group, London, UK  
Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, UK  
Conoco Ltd, London, UK  
Texaco Plc, London, UK  
National Museum of Film, Photography and Television, Bradford, UK  
British Airways, UK  
Dorset County Hospital, Dorset, UK  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA  
Hess Collection Napa, Bern, London, UK  
Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany  
Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany  
The Hara Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
Saibu Gas Museum, Fukuoka, Japan  
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA

### **Selected Publications**

- 2012 *Alder Brook: Twenty Photographs with Poems by Thomas A Clark*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
- 2010 *Susan Derges: Elemental*, Steidl, Göttingen, Germany  
*Shadow Catchers*, Victoria & Albert Museum and Merrel Publishers, London, UK
- 2006 *Azure*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2002 *Kingswood*, Stour Valley Arts / Photoworks, UK
- 1999 *Liquid Form 1985-99* essay by Martin Kemp, Michael Hue – Williams Fine Art, London, UK  
*Susan Derges: Woman Thinking River*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1997 *Under the Sun, Christopher Bucklow, Susan Derges, Garry Fabian Miller, Adam Fuss*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA