

## 11 April 2001

### **PIN:WHOLE PRESS LAUNCH Monday 23 April 12-2pm**

The ancient technique of pinhole photography will be revived in a new exhibition at the University gallery, University of Essex.

PIN:WHOLE is an exhibition of contemporary pinhole photography curated by a group of MA Gallery Studies students from the Department of Art History and Theory at the University of Essex.

Pinhole cameras, unlike conventional cameras, operate as a lensless camera where light is projected through a tiny hole onto photographic paper inside the camera. Any object can be utilised as long as it is coloured black inside and is completely light-tight. The smaller the pinhole the more precise the images and the larger the pinhole the softer the image. Exposure times can vary from a few seconds to several hours, depending on the light and conditions.

PIN:WHOLE features a diverse range of styles and techniques employed by pinhole photographers of today, to create images from the quirky to the simply breathtaking. This stimulating exhibition includes many images never before exhibited in Britain, such as the work of Eric Renner, whose work with pinhole dates back to the 1960s; Christopher Bucklow, a practising photographer from the UK; and Abelardo Morell who has created camera obscura rooms and exhibited at the world-famous Bonni Benrubi Gallery in New York.

The six students curating the exhibition, Eleni Ganiti, Ann Hayhoe, Veslemoy Hollekim, Pennie McDowell, Katarina Mullerova and Heidi Smith, explained that what makes the medium so exciting is its potential to create different visual effects and its ability to capture multiple images within different exposure times. They said; 'Pinhole is gradually becoming recognised as an art form. In an age of technology pinhole questions the origins of modern photography. The photographers have used objects such as biscuit tins and even toilet rolls as cameras to achieve striking images.'

The exhibition forms a central part of the students study and is the first photography exhibition curated by students at the University. One of the main features of the exhibition will be Tony Willett's large walk-in camera obscura situated outside the gallery. This will provide an interactive element to the exhibition allowing visitors to experience how light can produce an image through a tiny hole.

The camera obscura will also be a major focus for the planned education programme, allowing both local schoolchildren and adults to explore the concept of pinhole photography further. Graphic design degree students from Colchester Institute have already been involved with the exhibition, designing posters and the exhibition catalogue. Other events planned around the exhibition include a talk by Gina Glover, Founder-Director of the Photofusion Gallery, who received the Year of the Artist Award last year to develop her work with psychiatric patients using pinhole photography. She

will be speaking on 'Photography, Creativity and the Mind' in the University gallery on Wednesday 9 May at 2.30pm. There will also be a one-day pinhole workshop at Colchester Institute on 12 May led by Bob Cathmoir, a photographer and former tutor at the Institute, giving people the opportunity to make their own pinhole cameras and pinhole images.

PIN:WHOLE runs from Monday 23 April - Saturday 19 May 2001. The University gallery is open Monday-Friday, 11am-5pm and Saturday 1-4pm. Admission is free.

#### **Notes to editors**

1. Images from the exhibition are available electronically on request from the Public Relations Office, University of Essex, telephone 01206 872807, fax 01206 873423, e-mail [proffice@essex.ac.uk](mailto:proffice@essex.ac.uk)

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## **Contacts**

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