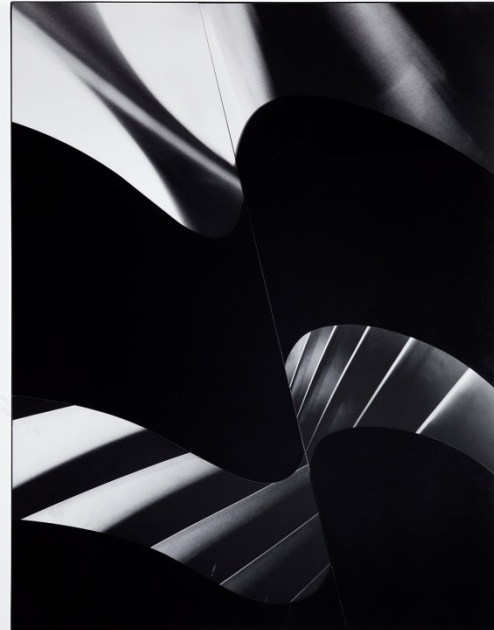


*Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2020*

**First details of new commissions  
by Silvia Rosi and Theo Simpson unveiled**



*Project 4*, (2019), Silvia Rosi | *Cylinder Sphere Cone*, (2019), Theo Simpson

**Jerwood Arts, 15 January – 8 March 2020  
Press View 14 January, 9:00am-10:30am**

New photographic commissions by artists **Silvia Rosi** and **Theo Simpson** will be exhibited at Jerwood Arts, London, from January 2020 as part of the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards. Both artists explore the idea of history through their photographic practices, across themes of family, industry, identity and architecture. Over the past 12 months, supported by expert mentors, including artist Roger Palmer and curator Renée Mussai, they have created new bodies of work which will be exhibited for the first time at Jerwood Arts before touring the UK.

**Silvia Rosi's** work explores her personal family history drawing on her Togolaise heritage, and the idea of origins. Her mother, who has been the source of inspiration for much of her previous work, plays a central role in this project, as well as her father, and their experiences of migration from Togo in West Africa to Italy. She has been informed by this history and her position as a European looking in on her family heritage. Her project is partially inspired by the West African studio portrait and also includes a visual deconstruction of head carrying techniques, a practice with its own histories, skills, rituals and aesthetics, and a strong connection to Silvia's own family history. For this exhibition, her work will include new examples of colour and black and white photography, as well as works where she explores working with video for the first time.

**Theo Simpson's** practice is drawn from the evolving environments and elements of the world we live in today, the notion of landscape is expanded through an intersect of theory, fact and myth, oscillating between topological studies, technological innovation, social analysis and a speculation of the future. The artist's work navigates between real and imagined worlds; pictures of human possibility, political impulses and economic transformations. Created as self-contained pieces, the works are made by both hand and machine; principally incorporating various photographic and engineering techniques alongside a combination of other mediums and disciplines such as sculpture, drawing and printmaking.

The **Jerwood/Photoworks Awards** support photographers, or artists using photography, to make new work and significantly develop their practice. The Awards particularly seek to encourage artists and photographers exploring new approaches to photography, and/or whose practice is experimental.

Following a national open call, the two awardees were selected from over 450 submissions in response to an open call to UK-based artists using photography within 10 years of establishing their practice. The selection panel for the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2020 is: **Aaron Schuman**, artist; **Marta Weiss**, Curator of Photographs at V&A Museums; **Shama Khanna**, freelance curator and writer; **Shoair Mavlian**, Director of Photoworks; and **Lilli Geissendorfer**, Director of Jerwood Arts.

**Lilli Geissendorfer, Director, Jerwood Arts** says, *"We are delighted to be launching 2020 with an exhibition of new photographic commissions by Silvia Rosi and Theo Simpson at Jerwood Arts in London. The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards is a key part of our mission to support outstanding artists from across the UK to develop and thrive at a pivotal point in their practice. Over the past 12 months Silvia and Theo have been developing distinctive bodies of work that explore history and identity through family, industry and place; considering the unique role of photography in giving voice to these subjects."*

**Shoair Mavlian, Director, Photoworks**, adds, *"The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards is an important part of our programme and in 2020 will be an exciting start to our 25th anniversary year. The award gives opportunities to talented early career artists and helps to cultivate the exploration, expansion and development of their practices. Silvia Rosi and Theo Simpson's work stood out to us for numerous reasons. What is so exciting this year in this year's recipients is that for both Silvia and Theo what is central to their practices is how photography integrates other mediums."*

Presented every two years, the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are open to artists using photography who are based in the UK and within 10 years of establishing their practice. The award gives £10,000 to each of the recipients to develop new work to exhibit at Jerwood Arts, London, and on the subsequent UK tour, alongside an additional production fund of £5,000 and high-profile mentoring support from an international panel of experts for at least 12 months, which provides curatorial and artistic development for both recipients, by both Jerwood Arts and Photoworks.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a free events programme hosted at Jerwood Arts and a full-colour publication including newly commissioned writing about the artists' work.

### **Exhibition listing:**

Title: Jerwood/Photoworks Awards 2020  
Dates: 15 January – 8 March 2020

Address Jerwood Arts, 171 Union Street, Bankside, London, SE1 0LN  
Opening Hours: Mon – Sat: 10am – 5pm / Sun 12 – 5pm  
Open until 8pm on the last Friday of every month during exhibitions  
Admission: Free  
Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough  
Website: [jerwoodarts.org](http://jerwoodarts.org)  
Twitter: @JerwoodArts @photoworks\_uk #JPAwards

–ENDS–

For further information about Jerwood/Photoworks Award please contact Maggie Eckel and Harriet Clarke at Four Culture:

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### Project Credit

The Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Photoworks, supported by official print partner Spectrum Photographic.

### Artist Biographies

**Silvia Rosi** (b.1992, Scandiano, Italy) is an Italian/Togolaise London based artist, working with photography and video to explore ideas of memory, migration and diaspora. She graduated from London College of Communication in 2016 with a BA (Hons) in Photography. Recent exhibitions include Presenting Cultural Connections, 1:54 Art Fair, Somerset House (2019); Emergence, The Art Pavilion, Mile End (2016); Beyond the Camera, Pingyao International Photography Festival (2016); Black Blossom Exhibition - Highlighting the Voices of Black Women (2016). Silvia Rosi recently undertook a Thread residency in Senegal, which she also spoke about at a talk for 1:54 A Contemporary African Art Fair.

**Theo Simpson** (b.1986, Doncaster) lives and works in Lincolnshire, UK. Recent exhibitions include *Toward the Metal*, solo show, Photo London, Somerset House, London (2019); *Loading*, group show, Foam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2018); *Part and Whole*, solo show, Foam 3H, Amsterdam (2018); *A Green and Pleasant Land*, group show, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne (2017); *The land of the day before*, solo show, Webber Gallery, London (2017). He was also the 2017 Outset Unseen Exhibition Fund Winner. Theo Simpson is featured in public collections including, Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland; Foam photography museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Tate Artists' Book Library, London, UK.

### About the Awards

Founded in 2015, the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Photoworks, supported by Arts Council England and Official Print Partner, Spectrum Photographic. They are presented every two years in London and on tour nationally.

Each Awardee receives an award of £10,000 to support the time and space to research and develop new work, with access to a production fund of up to £5,000 each and has been

supported over a year-long period from an impressive mentoring panel. Silvia Rosi's main mentor is artist Renée Mussai, Senior Curator and Head of Archive & Research at Autograph, and Theo Simpson was primarily supported by photographer Roger Palmer. Artists previously supported through the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards are: Matthew Finn, Joanna Piotrowska and Tereza Zelenkova, Alejandra Carles-Tolra, Sam Laughlin and Lua Ribeira.

### Jerwood Arts

Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, bursaries, fellowships, projects, programmes and commissions. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together through our exhibitions and events in London, as well as across the UK. [www.jerwoodarts.org](http://www.jerwoodarts.org)

### Photoworks

Photoworks is an international platform for contemporary photography. Photoworks' programme includes commissions, new writing, digital projects and participation events, such as the Jerwood/Photoworks Awards, Photoworks Annual and a Photo Biennial. Photoworks is a registered charity, based at the University of Brighton and is a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England. [photoworks.org.uk](http://photoworks.org.uk) @photoworks\_uk

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**photoworks**

Print partner

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