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EBB-TIDE: MUDLARKING FINDS FROM THE RIVER THAMES - Photographs By Michael Thomas - Four Corners Gallery, London E2

- Ebb-Tide: An exhibition of works by artist Michael Thomas.
- The exhibition highlights the artist's experimental photographic technique.
- The work documents a ten year collection of artefacts found on the Thames foreshore by Monika Buttling-Smith, mudlark.
- Open to the public from 19-22 June 2024

***Ebb-Tide: Mudlarking Finds From The River Thames* An Exhibition of Colour Photographs By Artist Michael Thomas.**

Opening to the public from 19-22 June 2024, at Four Corners Gallery, Bethnal Green, London E2.

Ebb-Tide is a new body of work from artist Michael Thomas in collaboration with mudlark Monika Buttling-Smith.

It is an abridged record of ten years of finds from the Thames foreshore by Monika, that comprises over 100 individual photographic works.

Photographic prints are shown with accompanying objects from Monika's collection dating from Roman Britain up to the present day.

The works show mostly ordinary objects, common in their time, discarded by their owners, washed by the tidal Thames.

The photographs are emotional responses to the objects rather than forensic representations.

They are photo-grams rather than photo-graphs, using transparency and silhouette to transform the familiar.

Michael's technique gives an unusual outline and vibrancy to the objects, their strange rendering causing the viewer to re-evaluate the objects.

Each object suggests its own narrative and emotional resonance. Collectively the works can be read as a symbolic shorthand. They tell the story of two millennia of Thames history, showing the surfaces, shapes and energy brought to bear upon the objects by the river; The distortions of time and tide, the patination, delamination, oxidisation and transfiguration that the river imparts.

Like the medium of photography, the objects are tokens of a fixed time and place - They allude to a past life and a possible narrative, whilst being before us in the present - showing fixity, permanence, and evidence of their journey in time.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Monika Buttling-Smith is a London Mudlark, scouring the banks of the River Thames for historic artefacts. She is a member of the Society of Thames Mudlarks and is a leading figure in the Mudlark community, managing an online forum with over 120 thousand members. Her finds have been featured in numerous illustrated books and academic papers, and her mudlarking experiences have been documented on podcast, television and film.

Monika regularly exhibits her collection of historic finds, with accompanying lectures. A founding member of Hands on History, she recently co-curated a series of exhibitions at St Paul's Cathedral, the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, the Guildhall, the National Maritime Museum and the Museum of London Docklands.

Michael Thomas was born in Birmingham, England. He is the first of his family to go to university. Michael attended Bournville School of Art followed by the London College of Printing and The London College of Communication.

After early success as a fashion photographer in the 1990s he returned to education completing his MA in 2010.

Michael's work has appeared in books and magazines in the UK, USA, Japan and Europe for over two decades. He lives and works in London, England.

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--NOTES TO EDITORS--

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DATES AND OPENING HOURS

Open to the public 19 JUNE - 22 JUNE
11AM - 6PM (Closed Sunday and Monday)

ADMISSION

Admission is free.

IMAGES

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