

BETTS PROJECT

PRESS RELEASE

Denise Scott Brown: *Wayward Eye*

WED 11 — SAT 28 JULY / 19 SEP — 20 OCT 2018

PRIVATE VIEW: TUESDAY 10 JULY, 6—8PM



Betts Project is pleased to announce 'Wayward Eye' an exhibition of photography of the 1950s and 1960s by legendary architect-planner and theorist Denise Scott Brown. This will be Scott Brown's first solo exhibition in the UK.

I'm not a photographer. I shoot for architecture — if there's art here it's a byproduct. Yet the images stand alone. Judge what you see.

In 1956, Robert Scott Brown and I photographed architectural set pieces of Venice as records to return to while practicing in Africa. But in the process, more than architecture crept into our photographs.

In 1965, after ten years of urbanism, my foci were automobile cities of the American Southwest, social change, multiculturalism, action, everyday architecture, "messy vitality," iconography, and Pop Art.

**Waywardness lay in more than my eye.
Do I hate it or love it?
'Don't ask,' said my inner voice. 'Just shoot.'**

For Robert Venturi and me, these sequences from Venice to Venice, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas provided inspiration and they still do. And via them, architectural photography initiated a move beyond beauty shots and data. Over the last 60 years, by adding analysis, synthesis, recommendation, and design, it has gone from tool to subdiscipline in architecture.

—Denise Scott Brown

Taken between 1956 and 1966, these photographs reveal Scott Brown's formative explorations into urban systems, Pop Art, and the complexity of the American vernacular — interests that she and partner Robert Venturi would later develop in the pivotal *Learning from Las Vegas*. The photographs offer a glimpse into the social transformations of the 1960s as seen through the wayward eye of one of architecture's most influential practitioners.

Scott Brown's photography is more than a means of documenting buildings — it is a tool for observation and analysis, an exploration of culture, aesthetics, history, and society. Through photography, Scott Brown traces continuities from the geometric vistas of Canaletto's Venice to the neon modernism of the Vegas Strip. For today's architects, artists, and social scientists, these images provide models for design research and visual thinking.

Photographs are available for purchase at Betts Project. Each photograph is 43 cm by 28 cm in a limited edition of ten, signed by Scott Brown and numbered. The exhibition will also be accompanied by a catalogue, published by PLANE—SITE and featuring texts by Scott Brown and Andrés Ramirez.

In support of this exhibition, a collage installation of photographs by Scott Brown will also be on display concurrently at Lethaby Gallery, University of the Arts London, Central Saint Martins.

Image: *Pico Boulevard - Santa Monica*, 1966. © Denise Scott Brown. Courtesy the artist and Betts Project

Denise Scott Brown: Wayward Eye exhibition is a collaboration between Denise Scott Brown, Jeremy Tenenbaum, Andres Ramirez, Plane-Site and Betts Project.

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Opening Hours

Wednesday – Friday 11am-6pm

Saturday 12-5pm

or by appointment

About Betts Project

Betts Project is a London-based contemporary art gallery specialising in architecture, founded in 2013 by Marie Coulon.

The concept behind Betts Project is to introduce both a specialist audience and wider public to new ways of discovering and thinking about architecture, through the exhibition and promotion of materials integral to architecture – largely drawings, but also models and other forms of representation. It aims to support and promote work by established and emerging international architects, as well as lesser known or overlooked practices still very much relevant to the contemporary discourse.

The gallery is also driven by the desire to introduce architectural objects as works of art. To do so, it organises high calibre exhibitions for new and established audiences and participate to art fairs, and thereby brings unique collectable works to the market at an affordable price.

Over the past years the exhibition programme has featured solo shows by established international figures such as De Vylder Vink Taillieu architects, Florian Beigel and Philip Christou, Caruso St John, Alexander Brodsky, Lars Lerup, Tony Fretton, Fred Scott, Studio Mumbai, Richard Goodwin, Peter Märkli alongside artist Hans Josephsohn, Pier Vittorio Aureli, and OFFICEkgdvs with photographer Bas Princen.

Next exhibition: Günter Günschel

To find out more visit: www.bettsproject.com and sign-up to the Betts Project e-newsletters.

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