

Sorry I'm Not Sorry, Lauren Joy Kennett

12 April - 30 June 2024



I didn't know who I was and so I was all gone, Lauren Joy Kennett (2023)

"I say sorry all the time.

Sorry because I think I'm wrong or I'm in the way or I'm late or I forgot to do something I said I would do or I missed another appointment. Sorry sorry sorry and sometimes I say I'm sorry even if it doesn't make sense when I don't know what else to say."

Aspex Portsmouth and Photoworks are pleased to announce Lauren Joy Kennett's (LJK) first solo show and the debut of her newest body of work 'Sorry I'm Not Sorry', commissioned as part of the In Focus programme.

In the new body of work *'Sorry I'm Not Sorry'*, LJK explores her experience of living with undiagnosed autism.

Through autobiographical and archive photography, LJK uses cutting and collaging techniques to explore self-discovery, confrontation of life's traumas and experiences that have shaped her existence.

These fragmented and reassembled self-portraits serve as a visceral expression of the autistic experience. They capture the frustration of perpetual misunderstanding and an incapacity to articulate inner turmoil. The images encapsulate the alienation and loneliness experienced and the exhaustive effort to conform.

Using old family photographs, she reconstructs and reinterprets childhood memories; a process of dismantling and piecing together her identity to understand her past.

LJK returns to her childhood home in the countryside, seeking understanding and resolution with her parents. As she watches her son play as she once did, she begins to form new memories and look towards the future. This journey reveals new strength, grounded in self-awareness and acceptance.

'Sorry I'm Not Sorry' not only reflects LJK's personal story but also resonates with the wider late-discovered autistic community and neurotypical people, inviting empathy and a deeper understanding.

In Focus is a partnership between Photoworks and Aspex Portsmouth and part of *Explorers*, a national creative programme to increase the visibility and representation of neurodivergent artists in contemporary visual arts, led by Project Art Works with cultural partners nationwide. *Explorers* is supported by Arts Council England and Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition Listing information:

Sorry I'm Not Sorry, Lauren Joy Kennett

12 April to 30 June 2024

Aspex Portsmouth, The Vulcan Building, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3BF

FREE

Aspex Portsmouth opening times:

Wednesday – Sunday, 11am – 4pm

Closed Monday & Tuesday

Further information: www.aspexportsmouth.org.uk

Instagram: [@aspexportsmouth](https://www.instagram.com/aspexportsmouth)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aspexportsmouth/

X (previously Twitter): [@aspexportsmouth](https://twitter.com/aspexportsmouth)

Public Programme Information:

Sorry I'm Not Sorry, Preview

Thursday 11 April, 6pm – 8pm (artist networking from 5.30pm)

Aspex Portsmouth, The Vulcan Building, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3BF

Enjoy a first look at the exhibition and hear from artist Lauren Joy Kennett and curator Ricardo Reveron Blanco.

More information & booking here: bit.ly/3PfXq8o

About Lauren Joy Kennett

Lauren Joy Kennett is an autobiographical artist exploring love and loss, working across photography, hand cut collage and text.

About Aspex Portsmouth

Aspex brings new art and ideas to the heart of Portsmouth. Our mission is to cultivate art, creativity and a collaborative community. We believe art makes our lives better, brings joy, broadens minds, facilitates learning and creates meaningful connections in our communities.

We create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience contemporary visual art – from looking and discussing, to making and curating. We

achieve this by delivering an exciting and varied programme of exhibitions, off-site projects and participation events.

About Project Art Works

Project Art Works is the lead partner of the Explorers Project.

Project Art Works is a collective that collaborates with people who have complex support needs, families and circles of support. Based in Hastings, their practice intersects art and care, responding to neurodivergence, its gifts and impacts. Challenging paradigms of inclusion, their work spans direct practical and holistic support and film, events, projects and exhibitions.

Project Art Works is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

www.explorersproject.org

www.projectartworks.org

About Photoworks

Photoworks champions photography for everyone.

As an international platform, global in reach, Photoworks have provided opportunities for artists and audiences since 1995. They do not have a physical venue, but their online channels are always open. Their programme brings new experiences to audiences and opens up new ways to encounter photography.

Photoworks is a registered charity and the only organisation with a national remit for photography in England. Photoworks is supported by public funding through Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

www.photoworks.org.uk

For all press enquiries, please contact:

Kirstie Banks, Marketing & Communications Manager, Aspex Portsmouth

kirstie@aspex.org.uk

Photoworks

EXPLORERSproject



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