

PRESS RELEASE

**Frank Watson
Out of Whack**

Grey Gallery, 4 Helmsley Place, London Fields, E8 3SB

Saturday 11th October - Sunday 9th November 2025

Open Thursdays and Fridays 12 noon - 4pm

Saturdays and Sundays 12 noon - 5pm

or by appointment 07910359087

Private View: Saturday 11th October 2 - 4pm



Cul de Sac 2024



Rollercoasting 2016



Circling Saturn 2021

Out of Whack is a photographic exhibition that considers the English landscape in its many shapes and forms; how we abuse and mistreat it, whilst on the other hand idolising picture postcard depictions of pastoral scenes.

The projects spanning the last twenty years attempt through the photographs to reveal an aesthetic towards often unloved spaces, whilst at the same time offering up a critique as to how industrial zones clash with the natural world, where housing developments level natural habitats and military ruins dot the landscape, some memorialised whilst others lie redundant.

The projects are the result of extended journeys to the edges of coastal England, the suburbs of South London, former nuclear Cold War sites in East Anglia and the estuary of the River Thames.

The Hush House: Cold War Sites in England (2004) series reflects on former nuclear Cold War sites based predominately in East Anglia, many lying abandoned or becoming repurposed for commercial interests.

Soundings from the Estuary (2014) looks to the Thames Estuary as a site where the river was once seen as 'The Highway to the Empire' and now seems to have become a lost world that awaits its predictable urban colonisation if rising sea levels do not claim the estuary first.

Rollercoasting (2022) is a response to the separation of the Kent coast from the rest of Europe both geologically and through recent political events, hinting at a longing perhaps to be reunited with our European allies.

Circling Saturn (2023-) Is an ongoing project derived from reading W.G. Sebald's book 'Rings of Saturn' and reflects Watson's preoccupation with the East Anglian coast and the environmental threats it faces.

Cul de Sac (2024-) is a reflection upon how the architecture of the suburbs of South London (where Watson grew up) was often intended to blend in with the countryside; think 'Garden Suburb'. Unlike the photographs in the other projects these images have been doctored to reveal the idealised way home ownership can also be seen as confinement and incarceration.

Gallery talks with the artist

Thursday October 16th 6.30pm: Owen Hatherly - Architectural writer and critic.

Sunday November 8th 4pm: Liz Wells - Photography Professor and critic

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Frank Watson is a Photographic Artist who has previously worked as a Senior Lecturer in Photography teaching at Camberwell College of Art, The University of Westminster and Photofusion. He also broadcasts a radio show on Resonance Radio (www.thesoundofphotography.com) with guests that have included Peter Fraser, Mark Neville, Mitra Tabrizian, Liz Wells and Peter Kennard.

In recent years he has focused on publishing books including: *The Hush House: Cold War Sites in England* (2004), *Soundings from the Estuary* (2014) and *Rollercoasting* (2024).

He has previously made work exploring the relationship between sound and photography, releasing a DVD with the Sound Artist Dave Lawrence, *Isles of Grain* (2009). He has also made work in conjunction with the architects Chance de Silva. His photographs have been exhibited at the Design Museum and the Museum of London. He has curated exhibitions including *Living in This Mess* at The Morley Gallery (2002) and *Soundings from the Estuary* at the Contemporary Urban Centre as part of the London Festival of Architecture (2008). In 2006 he participated in the *Faster Than Sound* event as part of The Aldeburgh Music Festival. In 2010 he had a solo exhibition at the London West Gallery as well as exhibiting at the Royal Academy Summer exhibition. In 2016 he showed work as part of The Photomonth, East London Festival. More recently his work appeared at The APT Gallery, London 2018 and The M2 Gallery (2022).

‘It’s really hypnotically good. The combination of richness (as a subject) and austerity (of the actual sites) is very potent indeed.’ Jonathan Meades.
Soundings From the Estuary.

ABOUT GREY GALLERY

Grey Gallery is run by Jock McFadyen and Susie Honeyman and works with artists, musicians and writers. It is situated in the heart of London Fields in Hackney, close to London Fields Overground.

SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://frankwatsonphotography.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/frankwatsonphotography/>

<https://www.thegreygallery.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/thegreygallerylondon/>

This exhibition is part of PhotoMonth East London.

For further press information, please contact Susie Honeyman on 07910359087

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the grey gallery