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PHOTO
MUSEUM
IRELAND

Unusual Gestures **Lorraine Tuck**



Education Resource

Unusual Gestures

Irish artist Lorraine Tuck's newly commissioned work tells the story of a family living with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability.

Tuck is the mother of four children, two boys and two girls. The boys have autism spectrum disorder, which in the case of the youngest, is coupled with severe intellectual disability.

The artist was aware that people with disability are often represented as separate to – or outside of 'normal' life. She wanted to add to our understanding of the daily lived experiences of family life by sharing her own family's experience.

Unusual Gestures provides an insight into the far-reaching implications that neurodiversity and disability present for families. It explores the impacts - some subtle, some fundamental - on parental and sibling relationships, and charts the challenges and joys of everyday family life.

Each member of the family represented in Tuck's images, neurotypical as well as neurodiverse, forms the centre of their own separate and singular world, while at the same time celebrating the intricate inter-connectness of the family.

This work is about love more than autism or disability - it is a call for acceptance and inclusion.















Unusual Gestures - Uncle Owen

This series focuses on the artist's uncle Owen. Born in 1972 in Connemara, Owen has Down's Syndrome and is gender fluid.

At times, Owen chooses to live as a woman called 'Pink'. Owen/Pink has collaborated with his niece Lorraine Tuck to produce a series of portraits exploring their fluid gender identity with joyful and refreshing honesty.

Worksheet

Describe the photograph:

What are the images of? Can you describe what you see?

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Is the image taken inside or outside?
How does this affect your reading of the image?

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Is there anything you think that is not shown? Why?

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Composition – where are things placed within the image?
Can you describe what you see?

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Can you describe the light in the image? Is it natural or artificial?
Describe the colour in the photograph. Is it light or dark? What kind of
feeling, atmosphere or mood does it create?

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Think about the position of the photographer the framing of the photograph. Are they formal or informal?

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Describe the size of the work. How is the work presented? Is it framed, hung on the wall? Does this affect what you think of the work? What if it was bigger or smaller?

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What is the artist trying to say? Is the work titled? Does the title affect the meaning of the work? Are they addressing a subject or issue? Have they succeeded in communicating their idea?

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What do you think about the artists' idea for this work? What does it make you think about, how does it make you feel?

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Do you like the work? Why? Do you dislike the work? Why?

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Photography Terms

Conceptual photography

Conceptual photography is photography that is focused on illustrating an idea.

Documentary Photography

Documentary photography is a style of photography that provides a straightforward story or representation of people, places, objects and events.

Straight Photography

Straight photography is concerned with the inherent qualities of photography and rejects any form of manipulation or distortion of the image for painterly effects as associated with pictorialism.

Social documentary

Social documentary refers to photography by artists who use the camera as a tool for social change, using it to shed light on injustice, inequality and the sidelined aspects of society.

Subjective Documentary

Subjective photography is a creative or artistic process that aims to make a personal interpretation of a particular subject. It often invokes or describes a mood or conveys a particular atmosphere or emotions.

Question:

Which term best describes Lorraine's work?

About the Artist

Lorraine Tuck is a photographer from Co. Galway. She studied photography at Sallynoggin College, Dublin and graduated with a BA (Hons) Documentary Photography from the University of Wales, Newport College. Since graduation, she has spent much of her time making work that has been influenced by the landscape of Connemara, exploring the un-consecrated children's burial grounds in 'Cillín/Children in Limbo', and the Connemara railway line, published in book form as 'The Whistle Blowing' (2015). She was commissioned by The Arts Council/P

Photo Museum Ireland to develop Unusual Gestures. The exhibition will tour to Galway International Arts Festival, Photo Museum Ireland and Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny (2023-24). Her work is in numerous private and public collections, including The Arts Council, Office of Public Works, and University of Galway.. To find out more about this artist and her work visit:

[www.lorrainetuck .ie](http://www.lorrainetuck.ie)

Useful links:

[The Arts Council Equality Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit](#)

Gender:

[TENI \(Transgender Equality Network Ireland\)](#) -engages in activities that promote the equality and well-being of trans people in Ireland and work nationally in four main areas: healthcare, employment, education and legislation.

[LGBT Ireland](#) is a national organisation providing support, training, and advocacy which aims to improve the lives of LGBT+ people across Ireland.

Disability:

[Arts and Disability Ireland \(ADI\)](#) is the national development and resource organisation for arts and disability

[AsIAm guidance](#) on autism and language and what are the best words to use:

[As I Am](#), Adam Harris leads Irish advocacy charity for Autism

[Disability Federation of Ireland](#)

[BeLong To](#) the national organisation supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI+) young people in Ireland.

EXHIBITION OPEN:

22 September – 11 November 2023

Tuesday – Saturday: 11 am to 5 pm

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www.photomuseumireland.ie

Admission is free, donations welcome

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