

Press release

## Lorraine Tuck

*Photo Museum Ireland: 21 September – 11 November 2023*

Irish artist Lorraine Tuck's newly commissioned work tells the story of a family living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual disability. Curated and produced by Photo Museum Ireland this intensely moving and emotionally powerful photographic exhibition is an important contribution to public understanding of neurodiversity 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. ***Unusual Gestures*** provides insights 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. The exhibition succeeds in capturing how everyone, neurotypical as well as neurodiverse, forms the centre of their own separate and singular world, while at the same time it celebrates how we are all inescapably inter-connected to the human family tree.

A further series of works in the exhibition focuses on the artist's uncle Owen. Born in 1972 in Connemara, Owen has Down Syndrome and is gender fluid. At times, Owen chooses to live as a woman called 'Pink'. Owen/Pink has collaborated with Tuck to produce a series of portraits exploring their fluid gender identity with joyful and refreshing honesty.

At its heart, this exhibition is about love more than autism or disability. Transcending a documentary or issue-based record, Tuck's work is a beautiful and clear-eyed call for acceptance and inclusion.

The exhibition ***Unusual Gestures*** was commissioned and curated by Photo Museum Ireland. The touring exhibition was developed in partnership with Galway International Arts Festival and Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny. The Commission and the Touring Exhibition are supported by The Arts Council.

Note to Editors: Lorraine Tuck is available for an interview in person or by telephone. Numerous print-ready colour image files are available: contact [info@photomuseumireland.ie](mailto:info@photomuseumireland.ie) for access.

### **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/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.

### **About Photo Museum Ireland**

Founded in 1978, Photo Museum Ireland has established a reputation as one of Ireland's leading cultural institutions. Located in an award-winning building in Dublin's cultural quarter, the Museum is Ireland's national centre for contemporary photography. Photo Museum Ireland is a charitable organisation whose primary goal is to promote the practice and appreciation of photography as an art form in Ireland.

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

Photo Museum Ireland, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin D02X406

### **Engagement Programme:**

Thursday Sept 21, 5.15pm

**Lorraine Tuck will lead an informal tour of the exhibition**

Thursday Sept 21, 6pm

**Official launch of Unusual Gestures. Guest speaker, Adam Harris, CEO and founder of AsIAM, Ireland's national autism charity.**

Friday Sept 22 - Culture Night:

**Free ten-minute guided tours of the exhibition on the hour, at 6pm, 7pm, 8pm and 9pm.**

**Performance by Owen O'Malley aka Pink. This performance by Owen O'Malley aka Pink is a special late night event, starting at 10pm sharp. In it, the artist explores some of the personas he has created in the portraits that feature in Lorraine Tuck's exhibition. The audience is encouraged to take part in the performance, playing the part of fashion photographers/paparazzi. Places are limited, pre-registration is required.**

Monday 9th October

**Lorraine Tuck will lead two workshops specially designed for parents of children with severe intellectual disabilities. First workshop: 11.45-1.00pm. Second workshop: 2.00 -3.15pm**

**Free but booking is required. [Info@photomuseumireland.ie](mailto:Info@photomuseumireland.ie)**

**Unusual Gestures is a touring exhibition:**

*Premiere: Galway International Arts Festival, July 2023*

*Dublin: Photo Museum Ireland, September - November 2023*

*Roscommon: Roscommon Arts Centre, January - March 2024*

*Letterkenny: Regional Cultural Centre, July - September 2024*

*Further dates/venues tbc*

Photo Museum Ireland is proudly supported by:



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