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Top Things to See at Photo London 2016

BY DANIELLE WHALEN | MAY 19, 2016



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From left: Photo by Gerard Malanga, group of works by Julie Cockburn, photo by Tod Papageorge. (Danielle Whalen)


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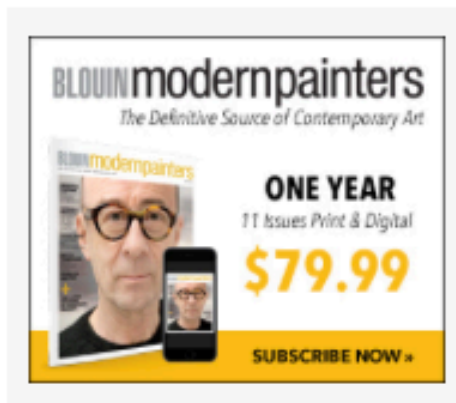
LONDON — After wowing a crowd of more than 20,000 photography lovers in 2015, [Photo London](#) returns to Somerset House today through May 22, kicking off its second edition with a roster of 85 exhibitors and an array of public programming in venues across the city. Already, estimates are showing attendance for the event is likely to at least double, further cementing Photo London as a mainstay, and a must-see, on the international fair circuit.

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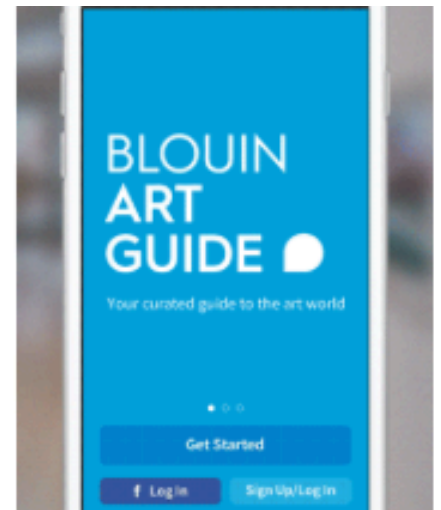
ARTISTS

Andy Warhol
Patti Smith
Robert Mapplethorpe
Gerard Malanga
Tod Papageorge
Bernd and Hilla Becher
Candida Hofer
Keiichi Tahara
Hiroshi Sugimoto
Walker Evans
Edward Burtynsky
Wolfgang Tillmans
Don McCullin
William Ewing

Much of what sets Photo London apart from other fairs of its ilk is its unique setting in the 18th-century, Neoclassical building, located on the north bank of the river Thames. The interior architecture challenges each gallery to make creative decisions on how to utilize their designated spaces, some of which come equipped with chandeliers, painted ceilings, and fireplaces. The result is a fair that feels more on par with the sprawling Les Rencontres d'Arles festival than AIPAD's Photography Show and its blocks of booths.



Here are a few of the booths that caught our eye.



Galerie Caroline Smulders

At the end of a long hallway, the unmistakable final riff from the Eagles' "Hotel California" drifted from the room occupied by Parisian gallerist Caroline Smulders. The classic rock tunes playing from a speaker set the tone for a specially-curated show titled "Music and Poetry Never Die," which brings together images taken of then-unknown and now-iconic cultural figures from the 1950s through the 1970s, such as

Andy Warhol, Bob Dylan, Iggy Pop, and the Velvet Underground. Among the work on display is Lynn Goldsmith's ethereal color portrait of Patti Smith wearing a white dress and crown of flowers, her right hand raised; John Cohen's black-and-white photographs of a very young Dylan, smoking in his apartment; and a shot of Robert Mapplethorpe adorned with jewelry by Gerard Malanga. "We are building a market for the photographers of this era," Smulders said. "The work is still affordable, even though so many of the pieces are in museum collections."

amana (amanasalto / IMA)

Inside the Tokyo-based gallery and publisher's room is a collection of works by Japanese photographers including Yoshinori Mizutani, [Keiichi Tahara](#), [Hiroshi Sugimoto](#), and Takeshi Shikama, as well as the South Korean-born Bohnchang Koo. The exhibitor has also taken up a curved portion of a hallway with three massive, crumpled compositions by Satoshi Fujiwara. In his 2014 series "Code Unknown," Fujiwara took a page from Walker Evans's book by surreptitiously photographing subway riders in Berlin. Unlike Evans, he then cropped the images to the point where they become invasively detailed closeups, while still somehow retaining the subject's anonymity. The original photographs are displayed on a wall opposite the huge, rumbled-up versions, which Fujiwara shaped and installed especially for Photo London.

Flowers Gallery

Contemporary photographers abound in the London- and New York-based gallery's fair space. One of the gallery's photographers, Tom Lovelace, was commissioned by Photo London event partner FT Weekend Magazine to create a new body of work to mark the occasion of this year's fair, and the resulting series, "Black Marble, London," is on display at the Flowers Gallery booth for the first time. Also making its debut here is a new piece by Boomoon, a South Korean artist who photographed Iceland's Skoger Falls for a 2016 series, the rest of which can currently be seen at Flowers's gallery on Kingsland Road in Hackney. Other highlights in Flowers's show at Somerset House include mysterious photographs by Edmund Clark of locations where US government operatives carried out covert operations; a large-scale color image showing mankind's influence on the natural landscape by [Edward Burtynsky](#); and a series by Julie Cockburn of old portraits of unknown people she found at English antique shops and altered the surfaces of, some with thread, others with found objects.

Beyond the exhibitors' presentations, there is a group of solo shows at Somerset House by artists including Sergey Chilikov, [Wolfgang Tillmans](#), and Walter & Zoniel. London's Hamiltons Gallery has put up a mini retrospective of work by the British photojournalist [Don McCullin](#), who is this year's recipient of the Photo London Master of Photography award, which last year went to Sebastião Selgado. There are many opportunities to see and hear a host of established and emerging photographers speak in a lecture and symposia series curated by the curator, writer, and former director of the Musée de l'Elysée [William Ewing](#). Fans of the medium who find themselves in the English capital this weekend will not be disappointed, as Photo London truly is a celebration of photography, in all its diverse and evolving forms.

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