

Polly Tootal

Polly Tootal is a British photographer with a distinctive approach to landscapes. In contrast to the usual scenes, her photographs capture anonymous places that we pass by every day without paying any attention to them, spaces that are quickly forgotten despite their familiarity. This apparent banality is at the heart of her work. Polly Tootal seeks to establish a unique visual cartography of modern Britain.

She uses medium and large format cameras, which makes her creative process particularly slow. Each image is the result of close observation, revealing a meticulous visual performance. Her photographs are stripped back, without embellishment: a stain on a wall or rubbish in a corner are captured in their raw state. The artist does not seek to aesthetise these places, but to reveal their reality as it is.

Before dawn, Polly Tootal travels the length and breadth of Britain in search of these little-known landscapes, observing everything we see or could see but have often overlooked. Her instinct plays a crucial role in choosing her subjects. Once she has chosen a location, she settles down and waits for the perfect moment to capture the essence of the place in all its simplicity.

exhibition selection

2022 Real Utopia - collective Hub, Photo Fringe (Brighton, UK)
 2022 - 'CTY / Unknown Places', galerie Intervalle (Paris, France)
 2021 - 'L'oeil qui voyage', galerie Intervalle (Paris, France)
 2021 - Mass Collective, Urban Identities
 2019 - Le festival de Photographie de Marseille, Prix Maison Blanche (Marseille, France)
 2019 - Rencontres de la Photographie de Marrakech (Marrakech, Morocco)
 2018 - One Contemporary (Venice, Italy)
 2017 - Kestle Barton & Arts Council England (Cornwall, UK)
 2017 - Salon UNSEEN Amsterdam, galerie Intervalle (Paris, France)
 2016 - UNSEEN Amsterdam, South Kiosk (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
 2015 - Hyères Photography Festival (Hyères, France)

Prize

2023 PhMuseum Womens Photography Grent - 3rd prize
 2019 Winner of the Maison Blanche Prize (Marseille, France)
 2019 Finalist Voies Off des Rencontres d'Arles (Arles, France)
 2019 Finalist of the Kuala Lumpur International Photography Prize
 2019 Finalist of the Epsy Prize for Photography
 2015 Prix du public de la Ville de Hyères