

Press Release – 16 December 2013

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD PRESENTS THE FIRST UK SURVEY
OF WORKS BY AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA



PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA PHOTOGRAPHS 1975 – 2012
14 FEBRUARY – 1 JUNE 2014
Press Preview: Thursday 13 February, 11am – 3pm

- First major UK survey of work by Philip-Lorca diCorcia, one of America's most important and influential contemporary photographers
- The exhibition presents work from four decades of diCorcia's career, with over 100 photographs, from six major series on display
- The series *A Storybook Life* (1975–99) is shown in its entirety of 76 photographs
- Male prostitutes, unsuspecting passers-by, pole-dancers and diCorcia's own family members are among the hundreds of people featured in the six series of photographs
- Snapshot-like images belie the meticulous choreography of diCorcia's compositions that draw out moments of psychological complexity in scenes of everyday life
- First exhibition to present photography at The Hepworth Wakefield, displayed across five gallery spaces

From Friday 14 February 2014, The Hepworth Wakefield will present the UK's first major survey of work by Philip-Lorca diCorcia, one of America's most important and influential contemporary photographers.

This large-scale survey offers a unique opportunity to appreciate the breadth and complexity of diCorcia's work, with over 100 photographs from six major series on display. Spanning four decades, from his earliest series, *A Storybook Life* (1975–1999) to his ongoing project, *East of Eden* (2008–present), the photographs represent the unique way in which diCorcia negotiates the relationship between the staged and documentary photograph. This exhibition situates his work within historical debates around the status of truthfulness that is often ascribed to the photographic image.

The seemingly spontaneous snapshots of everyday life belie the intricate staging of every detail in each photograph. Often set in real locations, the lighting, subjects and arrangement are in fact carefully planned in advance, building the sense of heightened reality that characterises diCorcia's images.

Hustlers (1990–1992) is one of diCorcia's most iconic series featuring male prostitutes captured in various locations around Los Angeles. DiCorcia paid each subject the amount they would usually charge for their services to pose for him, shooting each in backdrops reminiscent of America film culture.

His two series, *Streetwork* (1993–1999) and *Heads* (2000–2001) frame unsuspecting passers-by on the streets of New York through the use of hidden flash devices. These series in particular have brought into public debate the ethics of 'street photography' and reveal captivating insights with the subjects caught in unguarded moments of their daily life. *A Storybook Life* (1975–1999) is presented in its entirety at The Hepworth Wakefield, consisting of 76 photographs of diverse narrative scenarios peopled by characters drawn from diCorcia's own life.

Dramatically lit pole-dancers are the subject matter for his series *Lucky 13* (2004). Suspended in time and space, diCorcia draws our attention away from the erotic and toward notions of sculptural form. A selection of works from his latest series, *East of Eden* (2008–ongoing) will also be on display. Begun in 2008 as the Bush administration drew to a close and in the wake of the American economic crisis, the *East of Eden* series draws on biblical references and John Steinbeck's eponymous 1952 book to create allegorical images that reflect the socio-political uncertainties of life today.

Born in 1951 in Hartford, Connecticut, diCorcia studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston until 1975 before receiving his Master of Fine Arts from Yale University in 1979. He has been living and working in New York since the early 1980s. His first solo museum exhibition took place at The Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1993, followed by others at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston in 2007 and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2008. To date, only samples from diCorcia's series have been presented in solo or group shows in the UK.

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield said: "It's inspiring to see this important survey make its British debut in Yorkshire. We're looking forward to developing our engagement with photography as an artform through presenting a major survey exhibition by one of America's most significant and influential contemporary photographers. DiCorcia's work continues to challenge our assumptions about the medium of photography in fascinating ways. It's a timely moment to consider this ambitious body of work that contains so many memorable and arresting images."

Visitors can enjoy free admission to the Philip-Lorca diCorcia exhibition and collection displays. For full details of The Hepworth Wakefield's spring programme, including events and activities, please visit the website www.hepworthwakefield.org or call 01924 247360.

This exhibition is organised by Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt in collaboration with De Pont, Museum of Contemporary Art Tilburg, the Netherlands.

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PRESS PREVIEW: PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA: PHOTOGRAPHS 1975 - 2012

Thursday 13 February, 11am – 3pm

11am	Arrive at Wakefield Westgate train station, transfer to The Hepworth Wakefield
11.15am	Light refreshments on arrival
11.20am	Welcome from Simon Wallis, Director
11.30am	Tour of the new exhibition - <i>Philip Lorca diCorcia: Photographs 1975 - 2012</i>
12noon	Interview opportunities
1pm	Light lunch
2pm	Optional tour: The Calder - <i>Erika Vogt: Speech Mesh/Drawn Off</i>
2.30pm	Optional tour: Henry Moore: <i>Reclining Figures</i> , Barbara Hepworth: <i>Two Forms</i>
3pm	Return transfer from The Hepworth Wakefield to Wakefield Westgate train station

There is limited availability for complimentary train travel to Wakefield, please contact us for more information.

RSVP by Monday 3 February to: naomiroberts@hepworthwakefield.org / 01924 247392.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For further details, interview requests and photo opportunities please contact:

Naomi Roberts, Media Officer

T: +44 (0)1924 247392

M: 07717 807512

E: naomiroberts@hepworthwakefield.org

IMAGE REQUESTS:

High resolution images are available from the Media Centre: www.hepworthwakefield.org/press

All images are provided courtesy of The Hepworth Wakefield and must be reproduced with full and correct captions and credits as provided. For further assistance with images or credits contact:

Sarah Forrest, Marketing and Communications Assistant

T: +44 (0)1924 247363

E: sarahforrest@hepworthwakefield.org

EDITOR'S NOTES:

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals. The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and welcomed its millionth visitor on 5 December 2013.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Free admission

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm and 10am – 9pm on the Third Thursday of every month

Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays) www.hepworthwakefield.org
01924 247360

The gallery should be cited in full, as *The Hepworth Wakefield* and not Hepworth Wakefield, Hepworth Gallery or any other configuration.

PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA RELATED EVENTS

Take part in a range of photography workshops, and develop your creative writing inspired by the Philip-Lorca diCorcia exhibition. To book: 01924 247360 / hello@hepworthwakefield.org

Members get 25% off all talks, workshops and events.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: JUST ONE OF MANY FICTIONS

Sun 9 March, 10.30am – 4pm, £10

Join writer Becky Cherriman to develop creative writing inspired by Philip-Lorca diCorcia's photographs in the current exhibition.

TALK: MARTIN PARR

Friday 11 April, 7pm, £TBC

Photographer Martin Parr discusses his work and contemporary photography.

FILM SCREENING: EVERYBODY STREET, DIRECTED BY CHERYL DUNN

Thur 20 March, 7pm, FREE (booking essential)

This acclaimed 2013 documentary, illuminates the lives and work of New York's iconic street photographers and the incomparable city that has inspired them for decades.

PHOTOGRAPHY DAY SCHOOL

Sun 23 March, 10.30am – 4pm, £20

Work with professional photographer Hannah Webster to experiment with different ways of photographing the exhibitions and surrounding landscape. Limited cameras and tripods are available to borrow.

TALK: TONY RAY-JONES, PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE STREET

Thur 17 April, 7pm, £5 (£4)

Greg Hobson, National Media Museum curator discusses the work of Tony Ray-Jones and street photography.

EVENING PHOTOGRAPHY

Thur 15 May, 6.30 – 9pm, £10

Bring your own digital camera and experiment with ways of capturing images in spring evening light. Suitable for beginner & intermediate photographers.

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

Sat 17 & Sun 18 May, 10.30am – 4pm, £40

Inspired by the Philip-Lorca diCorcia's exhibition, create your own studio-style photographs experimenting with lighting and staging. Suitable for intermediate and advanced photographers.

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Weds 28 May, 6.30 – 9pm, £10

Take to the streets of Wakefield with your smartphone or tablet, editing and sharing your images on the spot using app technology including Instagram.

PHILIP-LORCA DICORCIA

Born in 1951 in Hartford, Connecticut, diCorcia received his M.F.A. from Yale University in 1979. Since 2007, he has been represented by David Zwirner, where he has had two solo exhibitions at the gallery in New York: *Thousand* in 2009 and *Eleven* in 2011. The artist's *Hustlers* series (1990–1992) was recently on view at David Zwirner in New York (September 12 – November 2, 2013), which coincided with the publication of a large-scale book by Steidl, also titled *Hustlers*. Concurrently exhibited at David Zwirner in London was the artist's *East of Eden* series (September 25 – November 16, 2013).

In 2013, a major survey of the artist's work was organised by the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt that toured to the Museum De Pont, Tilburg, The Netherlands (until January 19, 2014), before now having its UK premiere at The Hepworth Wakefield. Recent museum solo exhibitions include Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2008), the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2007), the first museum solo exhibition of diCorcia's work by The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1993).

DiCorcia was named one of Martell's 2012 Artists of the Year. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions worldwide and a selection of photographs was recently on view in *I Spy: Photography and the Theater of the Street, 1938–2010* at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Also in 2012 the artist presented a new large-scale installation work, titled *Best Seen, Not Heard*, which was displayed alongside paintings by Edward Hopper in the eponymous retrospective at the Grand Palais in Paris. This work was shown for the first time in the United States at David Zwirner, New York, on the occasion of the *Hustlers* exhibition.

Works by diCorcia are held in public collections internationally, including the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Dallas Museum of Art; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum De Pont, Tilburg, The Netherlands; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Gallery, London; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He lives and works in New York and currently teaches at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

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