

## **Artist Statement: Richard Brooks**

I am an emerging artist predominantly practicing in photography and video. My education and life experience to date has helped to inform my work and practice. The experience gained in my previous work and training has equipped me with research and documentation skills that I have applied to my art practice; whilst my life experience of personal vulnerability has been significant in informing my work.

My current practice explores ways for my art to engage and critique issues of social ethics; as such I have been influenced by writers such as Charles Dickens, and informed by my previous theological studies. I have been significantly influenced by a range of artists, including: Lewis Baltz; Jeremy Deller; Noel Douglas; William Hogarth; Gilbert & George; Peter Kennard; Ola Kolehmainen; Richard Long; Josh MacPhee; Grayson Perry; Mark Rothko; Josef Sudek; Hiroshi Sugimoto; and, Mark Wallinger.

In December 2009, I completed a body of work, "Damaged", that addressed the issue of people trafficking [modern day slavery]. My previous exploration of personal loss and remembrance helped to inform this work. In my subsequent work, "Paradise Part 2" (2010), "Home Sweet Home" (2010), and "Coronation Anthem Number 1 - The Royal Estate" (2011), I not only explored the issue of homelessness but also considered my own vulnerability.

In my current research I am revisiting the issue of people trafficking and also further exploring how theology influences and motivates my work. Whilst, I am aware of the danger of making work that is merely illustrative, I do aim to make work that has meaning and challenge. My intention is to make work that addresses social issues in such a way that it prompts questions in the viewers mind; I thus hope to make work that is meditative and that invites contemplation.