
LEWIS ELEGIES

MHAIRI LAW & CALUM ANGUS MACKAY

7th August - 9th October 2021

Lewis Elegies celebrates the photographs of two diverse artists from the Isle of Lewis, the largest island of the Western Isles in Northern Scotland. The works reflect the rich contribution that artists and photographers from the far north of Scotland have made to contemporary photography, and this exhibition showcases work by artists whose work is rooted in the remote landscape of their homeland.

Mhairi Law's *The Darkest Dawn* commemorates the centenary of the Iolaire disaster. On New Years morning 1919, over 200 men returning from WW1 were drowned as their ship, HMY Iolaire, struck the rocks metres from their destination of Stornoway Harbour. This series depicts the treacherous rocks, The Beasts of Holm, that claimed the Iolaire.

Calum Angus MacKay combines a crofting life in the Western Isles with a career in Gaelic broadcasting and his activities as a photographer. Using wild and domesticated animals of the area as subject matter, his photographs make reference to local history and folklore without being nostalgic or sentimental. The richly atmospheric photographs from the series *By Fin, by Wing, by Hoof* have a beauty, which contrasts with the stark environment of their origin.

The Darkest Dawn was first exhibited at An Lanntair as part of the Iloaire Centenary Commemorations in November 2018, and featured in *AMBIT - Photographies from Scotland* at Stills, Edinburgh in 2019.

Mhairi's work *In the Lay of the Land* was included in Street Level's annual showcase exhibition of new graduate talent, Futureproof in 2014. *By Fin, By Wing, By Hoof* was first exhibited in Street Level Photoworks in 1990.

This exhibition was produced by **Street Level Photoworks** and is part of **Everything Flows**, a specially curated coastal exhibition trail programmed by Street Level Photoworks in partnership with regional venues and supported by EventScotland as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21. This exhibition is part of an on-going partnership between Street Level and the Beacon Arts Centre.