



Gallery of
Photography
Ireland

Press Release

UNION | Noel Bowler

27 April – 28 May 2017



From the series 'UNION' © Noel Bowler

Noel Bowler's expansive project 'Union' looks at the spaces of organised labour. 'Union' explores the meeting rooms and back offices at the coalface of the ideological war between labour and capital that has shaped our lives since the industrial revolution.

Mostly unpeopled, these interior spaces are quietly revealing. Some organisations occupy the simplest of functional spaces, others confidently demonstrate their rootedness within the established order of things, their spaces echoing the board rooms of corporate power. There is lightness of touch, too. The *ZNP Union of Polish Teachers* will convene in what is, in every sense, a classroom, complete with blackboard; while at *The Brotherhood of Teamsters* in Washington DC even the chairs huddle in conference.

"It's heartening to spend time with Bowler's quietly anchored work, to recognise the value and richness of all these sustained labours and understand that there are still sharp minds and strong hands ready to navigate difficult waters" – Ken Grant

Made over a 5-year period in trade union offices in 14 countries, the photographs offer us a glimpse into the places where the decisions and policies that affect so many are created. Bowler gives us a unique insight into the pressures and challenges facing unions in this era of political and economic uncertainty, radical changes in traditional work practices and increased worker insecurity. The work of the Union movement has never been so relevant for so many throughout Ireland and the world. This timely work continues Bowler's ongoing consideration of the political forces that shape our world, reflected through the organisation of social space.

In conversation: Noel Bowler will discuss his work with photographer and writer Ken Grant on Thursday 6 April at 5pm. Admission is free, all welcome. Booking advised contact: info@galleryofphotography.ie

Launch event: The exhibition will be launched on Thursday 6 April at 6pm. Reception kindly supported by Teelings Whisky



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Media: For press information, image scans or to arrange an interview with the artist, please contact: info@galleryofphotography.ie +3531-6714654

About the artist: Noel Bowler is a Photographer and Educator. Born in Ireland (b.1978). He holds an MFA in photography from University of Ulster, Belfast and a BA (Hons) degree in Documentary Photography from the University of Wales, Newport.

His work has been exhibited worldwide including New York Photofestival and Les Rencontres d'Arles, with solo exhibitions in Gallery of Photography, Ireland, and Impressions Gallery, England. Bowler has nominated for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize in 2011 and for the Prix Pictet Photography Prize in both 2012 and 2015.

His most recent body of work, Union was published by the Kehrer Verlag in 2015. He is currently a Lecturer in Photography at the University of Suffolk.

About Gallery of Photography: The Gallery of Photography was established in 1978 and is the national centre for photography in Ireland. The Gallery runs exhibitions, workshops, darkrooms and digital printing facilities and a bookshop. A not for profit arts organization, it is funded by the Arts Council, Dublin City Council and by donations.

Opening Hours: The Gallery of Photography is open every day.

Tuesday - Saturday 11am-6pm;

Sunday & Monday 1-6pm

Admission is free, donations welcome.

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For information on Exhibitions, Courses, B/W Darkroom Hire, Photography Bookshop & Artist's Digital Suite visit: www.galleryofphotography.ie

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