

John Riddy was born in the United Kingdom in 1959. He studied Fine Art at Chelsea School of Art and began working with Frith Street Gallery (London) in 1993.

His methods and formats echo those of the medium's earliest practitioners, finding in still images both the factual and the transcendent qualities of the everyday. The particularities of place and the urban environment have been steadfast subjects for Riddy, and his photographic practice often emerges from his travels to distant locales, an approach that has allowed him to work consistently in series. The series *Peninsula*, made between 2014–16, records what the artist has called an 'extraordinary visual disparity' in the landscape of South Africa's Cape Peninsula, resulting in complexly layered images whilst series such as *Horzon*, 2021-2022, and *Half-Light*, 2015-2019, demonstrate the painterly quality of the artist's practice, making the link between the composition, colours and tones in Riddy's prints and the work of painters such as Barnett Newman, Helen Frankenthaler and Brice Marden. For Riddy that quality is 'accented because it resonates with what we know to be an everyday subject and there is a complexity to the images that is rooted in that transformation of a commonplace'. The relationship between photography and the history of art and architecture is another important starting point for many of Riddy's series. Eclectic examples include the autobiography of John Ruskin, the woodblock prints of Hokusai and the photographs of Gustave le Gray. Choices about format, materials and technique are intrinsic to each series, making the physical qualities of the final print of paramount importance.

A survey exhibition *John Riddy: Photographs* was held at the De Pont Museum in 2019. Solo exhibitions and publications include *John Riddy* at Camden Arts Centre (2000), *Views from Shin-Fuji* at the Victoria and Albert Museum (2006), *Horizon* (2022), *Half – Light* (2018), *Of Things Placed* (2015), *Palermo* (2013), *Low Relief* (2009), *Praeterita* (2000) and *Rome* (1999).

Recent Group Exhibitions include *Beyond Documentary* - Museum of London (2018); *Sleepless* – Belvedere 21er Haus, Vienna (2015); *Ruin Lust* – Tate, (2014); *Obiettivi Obiettivita* – Officine Fotografiche, Rome (2012); *Revealed* – Whitechapel Gallery, London (2011); *Romantics* – Tate, (2010); *Of People and Places* – UMASS, Amherst (2008) and *Utopia* – Museu Berardo Lisbon (2008).

*John Riddy: Photographs*, a monograph presenting all of Riddy's major series was published by Steidl in 2019.

His work is held in numerous permanent collections including Tate, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Stedelijk, The Art Institute of Chicago, De Pont, The Rubell Family Collection, The British Council Collection and The Art's Council of Great Britain.