

## CONTACT

The Art House

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## MEDIA INFORMATION

### **Tony Fisher: Only the Lonely?**

#### **Exhibition of Photography**

The Art House, Drury Lane, Wakefield, WF1 2TE

26 January - 20 February 2022

### **Photographer Tony Fisher to present an exhibition of work from ongoing project exploring loneliness at The Art House, Wakefield**

Photographer Tony Fisher, will launch an exhibition of work in Wakefield this month from his ongoing project 'Only the Lonely?'. The exhibition will be hosted at The Art House, Wakefield's largest studio complex and visual arts charity which holds exhibitions and events, as well as providing professional development support for artists.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fisher was the recipient of a 2019 Arts Council England Grant, supporting him in the development of a new project also titled 'Only the Lonely?'. Initially envisioned as a series of portraits and nature photographs exploring the theme of isolation, depression, and loneliness, the unprecedented series of lockdowns and restrictions which unfolded across the world in 2020 made Fisher's topic all the more prescient, extending both the length and breadth of the project.

Undeterred by the impact of restrictions, Fisher soon adapted the project and, amongst the difficult feelings and circumstances of the time, he was able to capture beautiful moments of hope through his lens; shining a spotlight on the importance of creativity, connection, and personal passions to increase personal wellbeing in the process.

*"I had to find new ways of working and go out in the fresh air on exercise walks from my doorstep frequently visiting my local park and woods, discovering nature and my own personal journey. When it eased a little, [I was] engaging with people at a distance who were keeping up their spirits, from a dark place, into celebration and hope. I met 'ordinary people' doing extraordinary things; a celebration of humanity." - Tony Fisher*

The project, which continues throughout 2022, has become a timely reflection on the UK's loneliness crisis. The easing of lockdown restrictions may have allowed many of us to return to a sense of normality but Fisher remains committed to documenting both the vulnerability and sense of community found amongst those who live with loneliness and isolation on a daily basis.

Part of a series of regional exhibitions, a number of recent works from 'Only the Lonely?' will be on display at The Art House in Wakefield from Wednesday 26 January - 20 February 2022.

For further information, visit [the-arthouse.org.uk](http://the-arthouse.org.uk)

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For further information please contact Jen Garrick, Marketing & Communications Director, The Art House - [jen@the-arthouse.org.uk](mailto:jen@the-arthouse.org.uk) / 01924 312 002

## **Notes to Editors**

### **The Art House**

Drury Lane  
Wakefield  
WF1 2TE  
01924 312000

[The-arthouse.org.uk](http://The-arthouse.org.uk)

Free entry, everyone welcome.

### **About The Art House**

The Art House provides time, space and support for artists, makers and creative businesses to develop their practice. It is a place where artists and audiences of all kinds are welcome to experience contemporary visual art and learn about the practice of being an artist through a year-round programme of exhibitions and events. Established in 1994 by a group of disabled and non-disabled artists, The Art House is both a visual arts development agency and registered charity.

Alongside a programme of training, mentoring, residencies and commissions, The Art House develops a range of projects designed to engage audiences in the artistic process and contribute to an essential discourse around diversity in contemporary visual arts practice. The Art House is an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) with Arts Council England. It manages the Wakefield Artwalk on behalf of the city's cultural organisations, Makey Wakey - an ongoing partnership with The Ridings Shopping Centre to repurpose meanwhile retail spaces, and is home to the UK's first Studio of Sanctuary, a programme which engages Wakefield's Asylum Seeker, Refugee and Settled communities in creative projects.

### **About Tony Fisher**

Working with film, photography and poetry, Tony Fisher explores themes surrounding mental health and wellbeing. Over the last 40 years, the artist has battled loneliness and isolation, creating a personal narrative central to his work. His practice is deeply rooted in the representation of lived experience, both personal to him and the communities that he meets and connects with.

Fisher's work has been shown in many exhibitions, both solo and group exhibitions, in art galleries, museums, art trails, and the commercial sector in the UK and Europe including Eufami's 'Home', Brussels, 2017, 'No Boundaries', major railway stations, UK, 2018, 'Foto Biennale', Barcelona, 2022. His image 'At The Boundary' is part of Historic England's permanent collection of items documenting the Covid-19 lockdowns.

*"I have known Tony for over 40 years and have followed his career with interest and admiration since he was a student of mine at Trent Polytechnic in the 1970's. He has a unique vision, which is intelligent and imaginative, and these projects, which seek to meld the past with the present, are typical of his range of interests and the relationship he has with his 'HOME GROUND'".*

- Professor Paul Hill MBE , HON DFA, HON DA , FRPS

Fisher's photographs have been included in numerous photographic publications, books, and magazines including The English Countryside (Daily Telegraph), Art in Village Halls (Arts Council England). He is a contributor to the Royal Photographic Society's 2022 book 'Visualising the Peri-Urban Interface' and his music photography has included work for Fairport Convention and Richard Thompson.

An active disability rights advocate, Fisher has spoken widely including at The Lowry Centre, Salford; Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham, Erewash Museum, Derbyshire and Shape Gallery, Westfield Stratford.

### **Further Reading**

[Yahoo! article](#) on 'Only the Lonely'  
[anthonyfisherphotography.co.uk](http://anthonyfisherphotography.co.uk)