Portrait Of An Egg

Exhibition

*Gavin Turk : Portrait Of An Egg Photo London,* Great Arch Hall, Somerset House, London, 14th April - 19th May 2019.

Outline

**Portrait of an Egg Exhibition**, was the 3rd and final part of Gavin Turk’s Portrait Of An Egg project, produced in collaboration with Ben Brown Fine Arts and Photo London. The exhibition was a site-specific 4D installation in the Great Arch Hall at Somerset House staged during Photo London, 16th May - 19th May 2019. Digital portraits of eggs submitted by photographers through a global Open Call were curated and projected across four large wall screens centred around Turks *Ovum* (2019) sculpture set on a Portland stone plinth, the same stone with which Somerset House itself is built. The projected works and the black bronze, *Ovum* (2019) were spotlit in an otherwise darkened space and accompanied by a soundscape of farmed birds, a playful reference to the origin of the egg.

The egg is viewed as a surreal, classical metaphor for creation, originality and fragility and has been an enduring motif in the artist's work. Given its universality as an object, the egg became the subject around which to initiate a mass creative act, through the open call, to explore the nature of contemporary relationships between life and art, as mediated through our phones and social media.

In conjunction with the **Portrait of An Egg** exhibition, a seminar, *The fate of art under the gaze of the smartphone,* was conducted by Gavin Turk and the artist and writer Mathew Collings at the Lancaster Rooms, Somerset House, on 19th May 2019, the final day of Photo London. The discussion centred around the contemporary phenomenon of the camera phone and how this ubiquitous tool has encouraged us to capture our experiences and share them globally through the internet and social media, as well as how this technology is initiating debate and opening platforms for collaboration and visibility in an era of sociopolitical and ecological upheaval.