

**LOTTIE DAVIES
PRESS RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 2021**



Lottie Davies – Quinn: Until the Land Runs Out at The Northern Eye Festival



Untitled (Snowdon) from the series *Quinn*

1st - 30th October 2021
The Northern Eye Festival | Oriol Colwyn
Abergele Rd, Colwyn Bay LL29 7RU

Opening Times: 10am-4pm + 24/7 external elements
Free Admission
northerneyefestival.co.uk | [#northerneye](https://twitter.com/northerneye)
lottiedavies.com | [#Quinn](https://twitter.com/Quinn) | [#Quinn2021](https://twitter.com/Quinn2021)

For this installation of *Quinn* presented at the Northern Eye Festival in North Wales (1st - 30th October 2021), British photographer, artist, and writer, Lottie Davies, who herself possesses strong familial ties to North Wales, has created a large-scale multimedia project that extends far beyond the gallery walls into the seaside town and community of Colwyn Bay itself. Using a variety of media and installations located in a number of sites across Colwyn Bay, *Quinn: Until the Land Runs Out* is a meditation on grief, loss, loneliness, the search for meaning, and the possibility of redemption through time and landscape. It recounts the eponymous fictional story of a young man, William Henry Quinn, who embarks on an epic and symbolic walk from the South West of England to the far north of Scotland, taking in the length of Wales in between, in post-Second World War Britain.

North Wales is of particular personal importance to Davies as her paternal family has strong connections there - specifically to the nearby Llŷn Peninsula and Snowdonia. In the late 19th century they were involved in establishing the Ffestiniog and Snowdon railways; one of the current working engines at the Snowdon Mountain Railway is named 'Ninian' after Davies' great uncle. Immensely proud of her Welsh heritage, Davies has the fictitious Quinn walk almost the entire length of the country during his journey: through the abandoned slate-mining village of Cwmorthin, near Blaenau Ffestiniog; and to Betws-y-Coed (to where Davies' own father was evacuated from London during WWII) with Quinn depicted crossing the Sappers' Suspension Bridge over the River Conwy on the edge of the village, en route

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from Cwmorthin to Eryri (known as Snowdon in English) where he climbs the summit. Colwyn Bay itself is mentioned in Quinn's diary as one of the Welsh places he passes through on his journey. Additionally the objects in the exhibition also include a collection of postcards published by the Snowdon Mountain Railway Company and a local guidebook from the 1930s.

The exhibition at [The Northern Eye Festival](#) is the fourth in an ongoing tour across the UK with distinct installations devised specifically for each venue. Each presents a multi-dimensional view of the titular figure and his story by using moving image works and large format photographs, 'personal' ephemera, text, and installations. Created to be viewed and read side-by-side, it is much like simultaneously reading a novel, visiting the theatre, and going to the cinema. The viewer can use these visual clues as a way of untangling as much or as little of the narrative as they desire. The exhibition will be in Colwyn Bay itself, presenting vinyls and moving image within empty shop spaces and other easily accessible public spaces.

As Quinn travels on his odyssey it is revealed to be both a physical and metaphorical journey mediated by the British landscape, a geography that is both changed and unchanged since the 1940s. The ancient byways along which he has travelled remain as they were then, and yet with the immutability of change and the unremitting nature of time passing, lives and memories change and fade. At the exhibition in Colwyn Bay, the viewer metaphorically and physically walks alongside Quinn and, in learning his story, may come to understand more about their own search for existential meaning and purpose in life.

While fictional, Davies has created *Quinn* in response to the real experiences of young men and women post-trauma, both in the early twentieth century and now. The life changes imposed on each generation by conflict and global socio-economic collapse, as well as personal tragedy, produces a constant stream of people left untethered in the world, often literally travelling in any way they can, to find a new home, a new purpose and to rebuild their place in the world. Although Davies initiated work on *Quinn* in 2014, clear comparisons to the Covid-19 pandemic can be seen in Quinn's own mourning for his previous life, demonstrating one more way in which Davies' series transcends time and place.

Davies' work is concerned with stories and personal histories, employing a deliberate reworking of visual vocabularies with the intention of evoking a sense of recognition and narrative. *Quinn: Until the Land Runs Out* acts as a natural and significant continuation of Davies' work, further emphasised by showing at The Northern Eye Festival in Colwyn Bay and relating to her own personal connection to the North Wales landscape.

For further press information, images, and interview requests with Lottie Davies, Samuel J. Weir (Quinn) and Paul Sampson, Head Curator, Northern Eye Festival, please contact Sam Trenergy:

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Notes to Editors

About Lottie Davies

Photographer, artist and writer, Lottie Davies was born in Guildford, UK, in 1971. After a degree in philosophy at St Andrews University, Scotland, she moved back to England to pursue a career in photography and is currently based in London and Cornwall.

Davies' photography has been published in numerous newspapers, glossy magazines, books as well as advertising. She has won recognition in numerous awards, including the Association of Photographers' Awards, the International Color Awards, and the Schweppes Photographic Portrait Awards. Her work has garnered international acclaim with the image *Quints*, which won First Prize at the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Awards 2008 at the National Portrait Gallery in London, with *Viola As Twins*, which won the Photographic Art Award, Arte Laguna Prize in Venice in 2011, with her series *Memories and Nightmares* which won the Young Masters Art Prize in 2012, and her collaboration on *Dreams of Your Life* with Hide & Seek/Film 4.0 which was BAFTA-nominated in 2012. *Quinn* premiered in March 2019 at FORMAT International Photography Festival in Derby, and continued to the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry in 2020 and gallery@oxo on London's South Bank in July 2021.

lottiedavies.com

About The Northern Eye International Photography Festival

The Northern Eye is a biennial festival dedicated to showcasing the very best photography and photographic works. Working with national, local and international photographers as well as current and up and coming new talent, it is North Wales' hottest photography event.

Situated in the seaside town of Colwyn Bay in North Wales, the Oriel Colwyn Gallery is the nucleus of the Northern Eye International Photography Festival. Free to see exhibitions spill out across the town during the month of October and engage both photographers and passers-by equally. Past festival exhibitions have included work by Craig Easton, Niall McDiarmid, Tessa Bunney, Tom Broadbent, Simon Bray, Dan Wood, Jim Mortram, Amanda Jackson and Brian David Stevens. This honouring of photography is centred around a core speakers weekend on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th October and is hosted in the historic Theatr Colwyn building, the oldest working theatre in Wales and home of Oriel Colwyn.

This year seven invited speakers enthuse and inspire over the weekend. Guest speakers for 2021 are Brian Griffin, Alys Tomlinson, Craig Easton, Emma Case, Charlie Phillips, Suzie Larke and Jack Lowe. In a first for the festival this year, the speakers weekend will also be live streamed to allow people to join from their own home, to help remove any barriers that allow people to participate.

northerneyefestival.co.uk

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All images - Lottie Davies, Untitled from the series *Quinn (2014-2020)* © Lottie Davies

