

Media Release:

Archisle

The Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme

2013 International Photographer in Residence Appointed

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Foundation

The search for Jersey's first International Photographer in Residence is over and we are delighted to announce the appointment of Michelle Sank who will be working in Jersey for six months from April-September 2013. Michelle Sank is an internationally renowned social documentary photographer. The recipient of numerous awards, commissions and residencies her work is represented in collections and publications in the UK, Europe and the USA. In 2012 her new project 'In My Skin' received a Unicef award and a Lens Culture International Exposure award. Sank was commissioned by The Photographers' Gallery for 'The World in London' exhibition at the Olympic Games 2012.

Archisle Project Leader Gareth Syvret said: 'It is tremendous that an artist of Michelle Sank's quality will be making new work in Jersey in 2013. I am very excited to see how Jersey community and culture will figure in her work. At its heart the Archisle project is about plugging Jersey into the international contemporary photography scene. Working with this artist will be a great opportunity to do this.'

Michelle Sank describes her practice as being, 'concerned with the notion of encountering, collecting, and re-telling. I am interested in creating sociological landscapes, interplays of human form and location that are significant in their visual, sociological, cultural and psychological nuances. I work closely with all my subject matter in an empathetic and symbiotic manner often exposing the spectacular in the ordinary. The interweave of portrait and environment is essential in setting up a contextual narrative. I see my work as a celebration of the constantly changing moments and phases in life.'

Kevin Lemasney, One Foundation Council Member commented: 'We would like to congratulate Gareth and his team on the appointment of Michelle Sank. To receive over 200 applications for this post is truly remarkable and we at the One Foundation look forward to the arrival of Michelle and seeing firsthand how she will interpret Island life.'

Archisle: The Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme, hosted by the Société Jersiaise, promotes contemporary photography through an ongoing programme of exhibitions, education and commissions. The new residency awards a bursary of £10,000 for an exhibition of new work responding to the culture of the Island. A set of these works will enter the Société Jersiaise Photographic Archive for future public enjoyment.

As part of our community engagement plan, Michelle will deliver a dynamic outreach programme leading workshops and projects with partner organisations including: Jersey schools, Highlands College, Jersey Youth Service and other groups. Michelle is currently Senior Lecturer in Photography at University College Falmouth, UK. As well as bringing a wealth of experience in professional arts practice she has wide experience of using photography as an enabling and expressive tool in diverse community contexts. Her previous residency at Aberystwyth Arts Centre resulted in the acclaimed monograph *The Submerged* published in 2011.

Brian McCarthy, Managing Director of Le Masurier commented: 'Le Masurier are delighted to be sponsoring this exciting initiative. The far reaching educational remit that Michelle has will bring vast creative experience to our island's schools and college. Michelle is an award winning internationally renowned artist and her response to Jersey's unique culture and her legacy contribution to the Société's archive, is a very exciting prospect indeed.'



Roland, 19 years old – alias Lady Gaga, 2012. From the series 'In My Skin'. Winner Second Prize Lens Culture International Exposure Awards 2012.



*From the series *The Submerged*, 2009.*



Mythological Landscape. From the series *The Submerged*, 2009.



Family Holiday. From the series *The Submerged*, 2009.



From the series Young Carers, 2004.

All photographs copyright Michelle Sank

Notes to Editors:

- For a portfolio/biography on Michelle Sank see: www.michellesank.com .
- Michelle Sank will be available for interview in Jersey on 25 January 2013.
- Archi/s/e: The Jersey Contemporary Photography Programme, hosted by the Société Jersiaise, promotes contemporary photography through an ongoing programme of exhibitions, education and commissions.
- The Archi/s/e project connects photographic archives, contemporary practice and experiences of island cultures and geographies through the development of a space for creative discourse between Jersey and international practitioners.

For further information contact Gareth Syvret on Tel. 633398 or email archisle@societe-jersiaise.org .

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