

Well Grubbed Old Mole - Vision 2020

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Contextual Statement

Well Grubbed Old Mole, the overall work, is to be published as a tabloid newspaper and as an online pdf published under a creative commons copyleft license.

The newspaper references a New Left, New England, publication with a similar name, Old Mole, from the 1960/70s and is a lighthearted look at the events of the past four years in the form of personal photo diary linked to important Brexit dates. Full of symbolic meaning, metaphor and 'shouty' quotes it can be read and re-read in any direction with the hope people make personal connections and are left with open and unresolved questions and thoughts. With time it's hoped it might form part of a social history of our time.

The newspaper contains two 'special reports'; one of which – **Vision 2020** – is a work of assisted portraiture which empathetically explores people's concerns at the end of 2020 and can be used in a separate exhibition. Vision 2020 has its own artist statement:

Against a backdrop of Brexit and Covid I asked people to hold an object that represented their hopes or fears for the future. I chose Folkestone and the coast to Dungeness because it voted heavily for Brexit.

Brexit impacted heavily on my sense of identity so this project was a journey to engage with people. These photographs are a partnership of sorts, full of

symbolic meaning where I allowed people to choose the location and object themselves and to see what would happen.

There are at least 30 strong images, 17 of which appear in the newspaper, and these can be displayed framed 50cm x 50cm in a flexible Instagram grid format: 3 x 3, 2 x 3, 2 x 2 or any combination depending on space. A separate text panel will 'give voice' to the participants with the aim of explaining and adding extra interest or intrigue.

3 x 3 Display



Text to explain the project and each image at a comfortable reading height

9 images (3 x 3 + text with 50mm gaps): 1640mm (h) x 2000mm (w)

Alternative 2 x 3 Display



6 images (3 x 2 + text): 1640mm (h) x 1430mm (w)

The newspaper, Well Grubbed Old Mole, can be either part of the exhibition or not; possibly sold or given so people can take it away. The main thing is to give people 'space' to interpret, engage or dismiss the images but the hope is there is enough for people to go deeper if they so wish. Eventually all 40 images from Vision 2020 will be published in a more conventional square photo book so I can share it with the participants. The second 'special report', 11 portraits of people of Donegal, could also form the basis on an exhibition but they need to be further developed after lockdown ends.

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A ten-minute talked through video: <https://youtu.be/B7fPBcP4xB0>

Copy as a pdf: <https://cdn.rob.cloud/Well+Grubbed+Old+Mole.pdf>