

Artist Statements – Rosita McKenzie, Jan Bölsche and Kate Brehme

Rosita McKenzie is an artist based in Edinburgh. Since starting her practice 7 years ago, Rosita has exhibited in solo and group shows across Scotland, has received commissions from galleries such as Inverleith House in Edinburgh and in 2009 she was invited to California to participate in the Sight Unseen exhibition at the UCR California Museum of Photography which has been touring internationally. Although working in a range of media, Rosita works predominantly with digital colour photography to explore the permission and denial of the visual and the multiple qualities of light – a subject profoundly influenced by her experiences as a blind person.

Jan Bölsche is a Berlin based photographer and author. Practicing for the past 5 years, his photos have been published in a variety of newspapers, magazines, travel guides, catalogues and on websites and CD covers. Jan is an in-official member (Inoffizieller Mitarbeiter) of Zentrale Intelligenz Agentur (ZIA), a Berlin independent think tank and design agency, and has provided professional photography services for recent events such as the Konferenz K2 in Berlin titled “A Dialog event of Cultural Management of the Berlin Senate”. Jan seeks to capture what he calls the “decisive moment”, a photographic method shaped by a response to his visual impairment Stargardt's Disease.

Kate Brehme is an Australian freelance curator and arts educator based in Berlin. Kate has ten years' experience working in Australia, Scotland and Germany as a freelance curator organising a variety of projects, exhibitions and events. Kate was Education Assistant at The Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh from 2009-10 and worked as an educator for the National Galleries of Scotland and Strathclyde University from 2011-2012. Kate founded Contemporary Art Exchange in 2009, a curatorial platform for international projects, exhibitions and events providing professional development opportunities for emerging and young artists.

Rosita and Kate have been working together since 2011 on a variety of arts projects including the delivery of Blind Photography workshops in Scotland. Rosita, Jan and Kate have been working collaboratively since late 2013 and have delivered their Introductory Workshop in Blind Photography to audiences in both Berlin and Dublin. Their work combines their passion of creating and exhibiting contemporary art and facilitating its accessibility and inclusion of all people through a range of participatory activities.