

BEING THERE

Photographs 1968 ~ 1990

In this retrospective, Linden Hall Studio shows four decades of photographer Michael Bennett's rich & varied work. Rare vintage silver prints are shown alongside new editions of digitally-restored photographs, some never seen before, many in the collections of the UK's national museums. Also on display will be some of Bennett's work as an illustrator, with original artwork for *The Sunday Times*, *Private Eye* and others.

There will be work from *The Family*, (1975, V&A Museum) *People Doing Things* (1977 onwards) 1970's America and *Pier Closing Time* (1979)

Exhibition opening: 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Saturday 1 April 2023

BOOK LAUNCH

Pier Closing Time

Also on Saturday 1 April, Linden Hall Studio will be launching the third edition of Michael Bennett's *Pier Closing Time*, with an introduction by the renowned newspaper columnist Danny Danziger at 3pm.

Pier Closing Time: Buried, forgotten for 40 years, openly loathed at the time by its commissioner, Michael Bennett's 1979 photographic journey through North Wales has been rescued, restored and is available now as a book in this third edition jointly published with Linden Hall Studio.

Images from the locally-disdained project were rediscovered and included in *Seaside Photographed*, The Turner Contemporary's first-ever photo exhibition.

Mournful of a lost world, always ironic, *Pier Closing Time* was a bitter-sweet portrait of Welsh seaside resorts in and out of season.

★★★★★ "Michael Bennett's black and white photographs from the late 1970s ... show seascapes from Llandudno to St Leonards as melancholy and austere in every season, homing in on the weather-beaten faces of solitary workers – the signalman, the kiosk girl, the caretaker lugging the barrier to a pier in dark rain at closing time. They are starkly poignant laments."

Laura Cumming, The Observer, May 2019

Michael Bennett is a photographer & illustrator, and has worked for *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Sunday Times*, *The BBC* and *The Financial Times*. He had a long association with the satirical magazine *Private Eye*. The [Victoria & Albert Museum](#) and [The National Portrait Gallery](#) have collections of his work.

Linden Hall Studio has been an independent contemporary art gallery in Deal, Kent since 2014. With a vibrant exhibition programme, it has 11 major shows a year. A rolling collection features many established names in the art world.

The gallery has a wide-ranging events programme, with masterclasses, lectures and film screenings.

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Notes for Editors: *Being There* is at Linden Hall Studio, 32 St Georges Road Deal Kent CT14 6BA from 1 April until 22 April 2023. Open Tuesdays ~ Saturdays, 10:00am to 4:00pm

The third edition of *Pier Closing Time* is launched on 1 April 2023 at Linden Hall Studio, between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. Presentation and signing from 3pm. Introduction by the well-known journalist Danny Danziger. Danny has written fourteen books on a range of subjects, some best-sellers, and is a regular newspaper columnist.

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