

Lottie Davies

## **Sixteen**

In 2017 I was invited to become a contributor to a collective of photographer artists working with 16-year olds across the UK. This collective, lead by Craig Easton and known as 'Sixteen', has created a collection of photographic portraits and moving image work, which since completion has been exhibited across the UK in 2019 and will continue into 2020.

“Sixteen is an age of transition, of developmental, and of social change. At this time of increasing national and international anxiety, these young people are shifting from adolescence to become the adults who will live in a politically reshaped country, divorced from the European Union.

Working with photography, film, social media, audio recordings and writing, the project brings together the faces and voices of more than a hundred young people from diverse communities across the United Kingdom. Locations span large conurbations such as London, Birmingham and Manchester, the South West, Northern Ireland, the Scottish Islands, and post-industrial areas of the North.

The photographers open up conversations with these young people about their hopes and fears, and who or what sustains them, giving prominence to voices rarely heard. The project explores how social background, personal histories, gender, beliefs, ethnicity, and location all might influence aspiration.

This integration of stunning portraits and young peoples' candid reflections will tour to institutions organisations, arts festivals, and venues beyond the boundaries of the museum. Each venue will co-curate a selection of the work inspired by their own location, relevant topics and themes. Dedicated engagement programmes will encourage further conversations with young people across the country.”

[Sixteen](#) website

For my contribution to the project, I specifically wanted to engage young people using methods of communication which they use amongst themselves on a daily basis. This generation is the first to be called 'digital natives', and their personal interactions with friends and family, social lives and understanding of the world is largely mediated by the devices and technology with which they access the internet and each other. I chose therefore to conduct informal interviews via 'FaceTime' with seven young people from the seaside town of Hastings. These conversations were recorded in video form and subsequently edited to provide the audience with an experience of interacting with each young person as if they were conversing with the person themselves. The works were presented via iPads installed in two free-standing plinths, where the sound for each video piece was played through individual headphones.

The tour of the Sixteen work includes the following venues:

New Adelphi Exhibition Gallery & Atrium University of Salford, Salford

42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Horsfall Gallery, Manchester

Manchester Central Library, Manchester

FORMAT International Photography Festival, Derby

Hull Central Library, Hull

Shetland Arts, The Shetland Islands, Scotland

Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Birkenhead, Wirral

Tate Exchange, Tate Liverpool

Lightbox Gallery, West Kirby, Merseyside

The Atkinson, Southport

Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool

Parkside Birmingham University, GRAIN – Birmingham

Coed Pella and @20 Space, Northern Eye International Photography Festival, Colwyn Bay,  
North Wales

Belfast Exposed, Northern Ireland

Streetlevel Photoworks, Glasgow, Scotland

City Hall, London

The project has attracted national and international press coverage including print, online and broadcast media.

More information here: <https://sixteentouring.co.uk/>

Links to my works here: <https://lottiedavies.com/PROJECTS/Sixteen/1>