

Press Release

Boogie – *Demons*

27th May – 25th June 2011



The Outsiders, the Newcastle upon Tyne gallery from curator-director Steve Lazarides, proudly presents the latest project by photographer Boogie.

For 'Demons', Boogie has used antique photography techniques to conjure forth a diabolical aspect from each of his modern-day subjects. The everyday people in his portraits – be they young, old, slick or shambolic – appear possessed by infernal dark forces.

"I used a wet plate collodion process," says Boogie. "It was amazing to feel like an alchemist, mixing chemicals and pouring plates in my tiny dirty basement. There's dust and dirt everywhere and temperature varies, so the results are unpredictable. After doing the first few plates, I realised that something about this process captures peoples' darker side. So I named the series 'Demons'. Every picture was taken in Belgrade in late autumn and winter. It was grey and gloomy, the photo exposures were long, and you could see people going crazy trying to keep still and staring in the lens."

It is the black plexiglass plates themselves that will be available as original works: no negatives exist. Two different limited edition prints will be released on www.theoutsiders.net to coincide. While best known for his startling verité photography of, for example, neo-Nazis, gang members and drug addicts, Boogie has always been fascinated by historical photographic processes. An early Victorian innovation, wet plate collodion involves coating a thick sheet of glass in photographic solutions. Fiddly and inconsistent, it's suitable only for posed portraiture as the plate dries quickly, adding a degree of tension to the sitting. Nonetheless aficionados of the technique remain and 'wet plate day' is celebrated annually. Photo-surrealism from an era before digital enhancement, 'Demons' is perhaps proof that we all possess a tenebrous aspect.

Notes to Editors

Boogie

Born in Serbia, Boogie defined his photographic style documenting the Yugoslavian Civil War of the early 90s and its dramatic impact on the people of the Balkans. He went on to become an aficionado of some of the world's most disagreeable neighbourhoods, immortalising neo-Nazis in Belgrade, gang members and drug addicts in New York public housing projects, and prostitutes in Sao Paolo. Published in a series of periodicals such as *Rolling Stone* and *Time* magazine, the utterly uncompromising work is no holiday in other people's misery: instead Boogie offers a dispassionate view of highly provocative subject matter. He has drawn plaudits for remaining evocative whilst veering away from voyeurism, and studiously ignoring political correctness. This project is the first to evolve from an interest in historical camera work. Boogie moved to New York City in 1998 and now lives and works in Brooklyn. His published monographs include *It's All Good* (powerHouse Books 2006), *Boogie* (powerHouse Books 2007), *Sao Paolo* (Upper Playground, 2008) and *Belgrade Belongs To Me* (powerHouse Books 2009). Recently he has held solo exhibitions in Los Angeles, Milan, Tokyo and Istanbul.

The Outsiders Galleries, Newcastle and London

Re-launching the first ever Lazarides gallery spaces under a new heading in July 2010, The Outsiders sells affordable originals, prints, collectibles and books from the Lazarides stable of artists and more. Each of the galleries features project spaces showcasing works from new and emerging talents, as well as offering established Lazarides artists a space to present experimental shows. Space is also given over to an ambitious release schedule of editioned works. These small run editions, hand finished prints, and works on paper are produced in our own Wapping studio, Execution Dock. The book *Outsiders* is out now published by Thames & Hudson and the organisation is featured in Oscar-nominated documentary *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. Incorporating the online store www.theoutsiders.net and the spaces on London's Greek Street and in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, The Outsiders welcomes over ten thousand visitors annually.

Lazarides

Lazarides Inc is one of the world's most influential galleries, with three permanent spaces and extensive high profile off-site activity. The group is dedicated to emerging international artists who defy categorisation, often existing outside of conventional artistic career structures. This vision has resonated with the general public and major collectors alike.

Founded in 2006 by Steve Lazarides, the group represents some of the most exciting and innovative artists working today including Antony Micallef, David Choe, JR, Vhils, Faile, Jonathan Yeo, Charlie Isoe, Conor Harrington, Ian Francis, Stanley Donwood, 3D, Invader, Zevs, Mode 2, Todd James /Reas, Blu, Paul Insect and BAST.