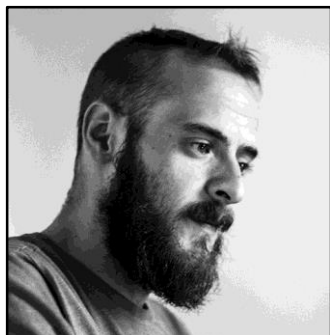




## Alliance Française de Cork Exhibiting Artist Interview AF Cork Exhibition Programme 2015/2016

### About the Artist



Alan Carey (aged 26) is an emerging artist born in Leitrim. He graduated from photographic studies at St. Johns Central College in 2015. Since then he has had two group exhibitions, “Coming Into View” in St. Johns College and the very successful sell out show, “All Out Of Cement” in Camden Palace. This will be Alan's his first solo exhibition to date. Alan is currently living and working in Cork City.

<http://holdstills.wix.com/holdstills>

#### **When did you decide to become an artist?**

I don't think I ever really made a choice to become an artist. It was just the natural evolution of a life long interest.

#### ▪ **What inspires you?**

I am very much inspired by light and how it interacts in the world around me. There is a lot of beauty to be found in those momentary pools of light, shadow and reflection.

#### • **Have you been influenced by other artists?**

My work has been influenced by many artists over the years. One name that definitely springs to mind is Michael Kenna. I have found him to be very influential in the way I shoot. I'm a big fan of his minimalist black and white work and it has definitely influenced this project in terms of aesthetic.

### About his art

#### • **What attracts you to your chosen medium? Are there any limitations?**

I have always been drawn to the beauty of light, and light being so vital in photography I feel I'm naturally drawn to the camera as a medium for producing work. I like to shot primarily with natural light which does cause some limitations as I am constantly battling with changing light.

#### • **What is your favourite Colour?**

Black and white!!

## **In Context**

- **What role does education in the development of an artist?**

For me personally it played a huge role in my development as an artist. It gave me the time and space to think about nothing else but photography for two years, which really helped me to evolve my practice and the way I saw and thought about the world around me.

- **Is there such a thing as a good artist and a bad artist? If there is how would you define this difference?**

Art is a very subjective experience for most people so I think it is very difficult to say what makes a “good” or a “bad” artist.

- **Do you think that the majority of art has globalised in terms of style and content?**

Yes, I think it has very much. People can access art and information from around the world in an instant. I think this ability has greatly influenced the style and content of art all over the world. Any artist can now draw inspiration and reference from a much bigger bank of knowledge than was ever possible before the age of the internet.

- **What role does an artist have in society?**

I think an artist’s role in society is to ask questions and interpret the world from a unique perspective.



## **About the exhibition**

- **What is this exhibition about?**

The exhibition focuses on individual flowers given with the intent of conveying a message. Although the specific message may be forgotten, each flower is saved and serves a reminder of the kindness of the thought. Often just a throw away gesture, they are not expected to last. However, when not forgotten or thrown away, the gesture becomes the embodiment of good vibes.

- **How does the body of work tie in with your overall practice?**

A lot of work is focused on things in life that are temporary. Little moments and memories that are often noticed but not appreciated and immediately forgotten.

- **Has your practice changed over time?**

Yes. My practice, thought, patterns and ideas have definitely changed since I first started. They continue to change and evolve every time I pick up my camera.

**Contacts etc.**

- **How do you market yourself?**

Primarily through exhibitions.

- **Do you have an online presence?**

I do. I can be found at:

Website - <http://holdstills.wix.com/holdstills>

Instagram & Twitter - @holdstills

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/HoldStills](http://www.facebook.com/HoldStills)

- **Have you sold work previously and if so by what means?**

Yes, all my work has been sold through exhibitions and I am currently in the process of setting up a shop on my website in which I hope to sell my work in the near future.