

Hélène Binet to participate in a new Hawksmoor exhibition

An exhibition at the landmark Hawksmoor masterpiece of [St Anne's Limehouse](#) from 14th September 2024 to 14th March 2025 will offer visitors a rare opportunity to view works by [Hélène Binet](#) previously shown at the Venice Biennale. [Binet](#), whose name is more usually associated with leading contemporary architects and whose work was the subject of a

major retrospective at the Royal Academy in 2021, created a series of photographs depicting the 18th century London churches designed by [Nicholas Hawksmoor](#). She is exhibiting works from this series at St Anne's Limehouse in support of their [Hawksmoor300 campaign](#) to restore this architectural icon and to open it up as a cultural and community hub.



The exhibition, entitled [The Hawksmoor6](#) presents the stories of the [six Hawksmoor churches' survival](#) over the past 300 years, -in sharp contrast to so many of Christopher Wren's masterpieces which have been lost. These churches have faced ruinous fire, WW2 bombing, threats of demolition, disregard and neglect. And yet they are still standing.

This is invariably due to the efforts of [small groups of individuals](#). At various junctures architects,

authors, artists, arts administrators, clergy, academics and volunteers from local communities came together to successfully campaign and preserve these buildings, often working with heritage organisations. The media played a central part in publicising the campaigns. The November 1962 edition of [Vogue](#) included a fashion shoot at Christ Church and St Anne's with a shout out for support.

In 1977 the [Whitechapel Art Gallery](#) launched a Hawksmoor show. A new film for the exhibition includes an interview with [Nicholas Serota](#), Chair of the Arts Council England and former Director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery (1976-88). He says

"The immediate effect of the Whitechapel exhibition was to bring together a group of people who wanted to restore and bring back into use Christ Church Spitalfields. The other churches in the area remained somewhat neglected especially St Anne's..."

St Anne's has, perhaps, been the most overlooked and under-valued of the six masterpieces. It is found in the most deprived area of London, in the borough with the worst levels of child poverty in the country. The proposals for its restoration include a firm commitment to the Tower Hamlets local community.

"St Anne's Limehouse is one of the largest and grandest of the Fifty New Churches, originally on the edge of a small, ship-building village, now at the heart of East London. It deserves to be, as it was planned to be, a great gathering place for the its local communities"

Charles Saumarez Smith, art historian and former Director of the Royal Academy

"Hélène Binet is one of the world's most distinguished architectural photographers and her Hawksmoor series, by focusing on moody details of his austere baroque churches, and the play of light and shadow on their stone surfaces, successfully conveys the intensity of a spirit of place. It is wonderful that, in exhibiting at St. Anne's Limehouse, she is supporting the Hawksmoor300 campaign to save this extraordinary building and make it a place where the arts can flourish."

Chris Turner, Keeper of Art, Architecture, Photography and Design at the V and A

"This exhibition is about bringing people together in this previously overlooked Hawksmoor masterpiece. Come for the unique opportunity to view Hélène Binet's stunning work in this extraordinary setting, come to learn more about our Hawksmoor300 campaign, come to investigate the past, present and future of this enduring, yet vulnerable, East End landmark."

Jude Reddaway, Curator of The Hawksmoor6

The Hawksmoor6 exhibition will include the architectural firm Thomas Ford's proposals and designs for the restoration and Brll Consultancy's plans for community engagement based on their research workshops with local residents. Students from [Barlett School of Architecture](#) will exhibit work from their Architecture & Historic Urban Environments Programme featuring St Anne's.

The Hawksmoor6 exhibition opens its doors for *Open City* week, starting [Saturday 14th September](#) through to [Saturday 21st September 10-4](#) excluding [Sunday](#) but open late on [Friday 20th](#) until 8.

Thereafter the exhibition is open [Fridays and Saturdays 10-4](#)

For more information, images and interview requests please contact Jude Reddaway

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