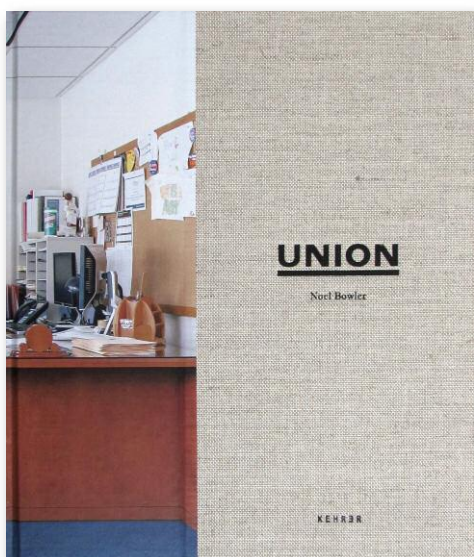




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NEW RELEASE

Noel Bowler

Union

Text by Ken Grant

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A journey through trade union offices in 14 different countries

Union is a series of photographs made in the trade union offices of fourteen different countries around the world. Taken over a four year period defined by increased worker insecurity and changing work practices, this body of work is a response to the current recession and its impact upon the working landscape. The constant threat of redundancy, a move towards working from home, the role of gender inequality and the role of decision makers within the Union movement are all central themes that are explored in this body of work.

These photographs document the presidium like interiors of a number of trade union offices in Ireland, Britain, France, Russia, Scandinavia and the United States. Although situated in different societies that have distinct cultural and historical differences in the evolution of how labour was organised, these offices all share commonalities in terms of bureaucratic and organisational structures. These in turn inform how the iconography of organised labour emerged within a society. Interspersed with portraits of contemporary union leaders, this series seeks to interrogate the constructed nature of organised labour, alluding to the immense workings of power defined by a nineteenth century ideology, as well as the hidden decision making process that occurs within the spatial confines of these buildings.

Noel Bowler is a Photographer and Educator born in Ireland 1978. He holds an MFA in photography from University of Ulster, Belfast and a BA (Hons) degree in Documentary Photography from the University of Wales, Newport. His work has been exhibited worldwide including New York Photofestival and Les Rencontres d'Arles, with recent solo exhibitions in Gallery of Photography, Ireland and Impressions Gallery, England. Bowler has been nominated for the Prix Pictet Photography Prize in 2012 and for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize in 2011. His most recent body of work *Making Space* was published by the Gallery of Photography in 2011. He is currently a Lecturer in Photography at University Campus Suffolk, England.

Ken Grant was born in Liverpool in 1967. Since the 1980s, he has photographed his contemporaries in the city and engaged in sustained projects both in the UK and wider Europe. His photographs are held in important collections of photography, including those of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Folkwang Museum Essen, the Archive of Modern Conflict, London, and other international public and private collections. He continues to work on long term projects and currently teaches Photography at the Belfast School of Art.

Book Launch

Gallery of Photography, Dublin, November 5th, 2015

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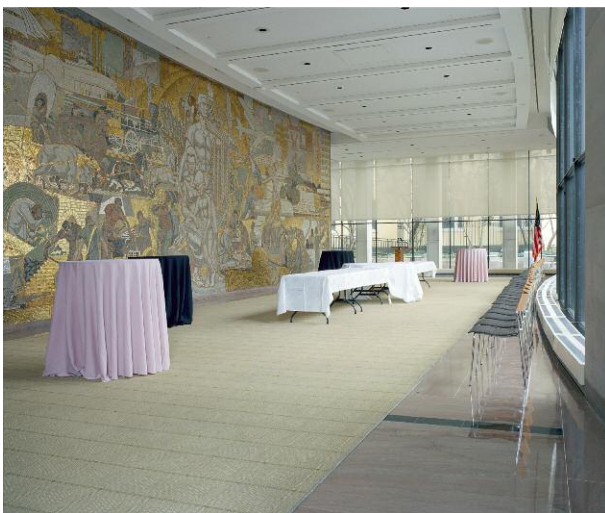
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