

Solo Exhibition Proposal: What Remains

Black and White Photography, Poetry, and Sculpture by local multidisciplinary artist Crystal D. Evans

Exhibition Overview

What Remains is a meditation on time, memory, and transformation, expressed through the interplay of black and white human insight photography integrated with poetry and stoneware sculpture. Through stark contrasts of light and shadow, Crystal Evans captures landscapes, objects, and human traces shaped by the quiet persistence of time. Paired with poetry that reflects on endurance, loss, and the beauty found in decay, this exhibition invites viewers to consider what is left behind—not as ruin, but as evidence of resilience, adaptation, and quiet return.

Concept & Themes

Evans' work is rooted in phenomenology—the study of how we experience and perceive the world. She explores how time alters landscapes and objects, how memory clings to place, and how human narratives are constructed through what we choose to see and interpret. The exhibition asks: *What do we truly leave behind? How does history persist in texture, in absence, in silence?*

Her approach is deeply informed by stoicism, embracing impermanence as an inherent part of life. Rather than mourning what is lost, *What Remains* considers the strength in surrender—the way stone relinquishes sharpness to the wind, how buildings soften into the land, and how memory is reshaped with each retelling.

Through photography, poetry, and sculpture, Evans challenges the notion of decay as destruction. Instead, she presents it as transformation, an inevitable yet beautiful process where time does not simply erode but remakes.

Exhibition Layout

This exhibition is directly tied to Evans' published photography and poetry book, *What Remains*, and follows its thematic structure. Each section of the gallery is arranged according to the book's chapters, allowing viewers to move through a reflective journey of endurance, transition, and meaning.

Example chapters include:

- On Love and Growth – Examining how relationships and memories shape us, featuring intimate portraits and landscapes that reveal the quiet traces of care, longing, and resilience.
- On Strength and Wisdom – Exploring endurance and perspective, with images of weathered landscapes, ancient ruins, and structures reshaped by time.

- On Work and Play – Investigating the marks left by human labour and creativity, from abandoned to well-worn objects that have outlived their makers to the liminal spaces where people have laboured.

By mirroring the structure of her book, the exhibition creates a layered experience—one that allows visitors to engage with Evans' work both visually and textually, deepening their connection to its themes.

Artist Biography

Crystal Evans is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans sculpture, painting, photography, installation, and poetry. Her work explores perception, memory, emotion, and narrative construction, revealing the subtle yet profound ways in which we interpret the world around us. Drawing from phenomenology and cognitive bias, Evans examines how stories are formed—both personal and collective—and how meaning is shaped by what is seen, remembered, or forgotten.

Born in the UK to a Malaysian Chinese mother and a Ugandan South African Welsh father, Evans' artistic inquiry is deeply tied to themes of identity, belonging, and the shifting nature of history. Her work does not seek definitive answers but instead invites contemplation, often challenging assumptions and embracing ambiguity.

Evans' practice is also influenced by stoicism, particularly its emphasis on perspective and acceptance. As a disabled artist who is often wheelchair-bound due to a spinal condition that causes chronic pain, through her work, she investigates the resilience found in impermanence, the beauty in relinquishment, and the quiet strength of things that endure despite change.

Her photography and poetry have been exhibited internationally, including at major cultural and environmental conferences such as COP29, and her work has been featured in *The Arts Society Magazine*. She is studying for an MA in Fine Art at UCA Canterbury and continues to push the boundaries of interdisciplinary storytelling.

Why This Work Matters

In a world that moves at an accelerating pace, *What Remains* urges a pause. It invites contemplation on the quiet beauty of things once whole, now changed—not as loss, but as part of a greater cycle. Evans' black and white photography, stripped of distraction, compels the viewer to see not just what is before them, but what once was, and what may still be.

By weaving together poetry and image, the exhibition offers a space for reflection—on history, on self, and on the enduring marks we all leave behind.

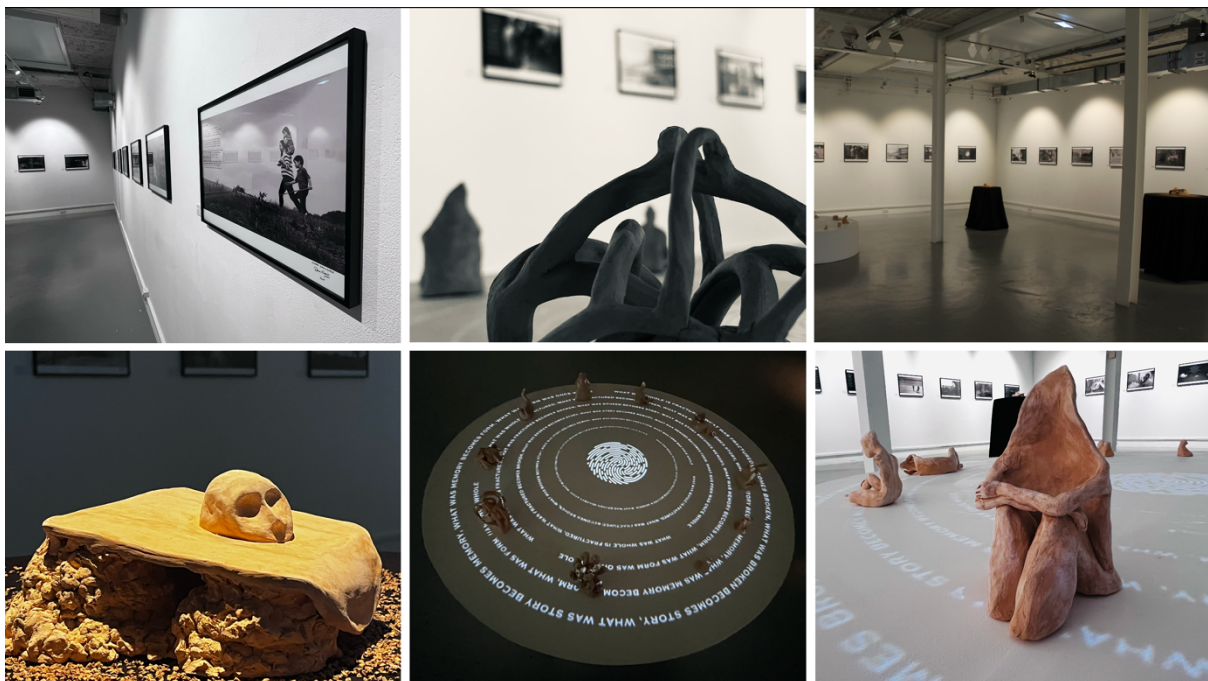
Past Success

What Remains was previously exhibited at the Herbert Read Gallery, Canterbury, from 8–14 March 2025, where it garnered widespread acclaim and record-breaking foot traffic for the gallery. The exhibition attracted a hugely diverse audience, ranging from typically harder to reach ethnic and minority faith voices, to a large neurodivergent contingent, plus many from the LGBTQIA+ community, and many with special access needs. Despite garnering strong engagement from art collectors, curators, teachers, students, and fellow emerging artists, a large proportion of visitors were those who don't typically engage with gallery spaces including young families and older, less affluent, solo empty nesters. Overall, the artist was able to foster meaningful conversations with all, especially around the work's resonant themes and the Artist Talk and poetry performance given during her Opening Preview.

Social media engagement remained strong throughout the run, with sustained interest reflected in artist and gallery website visits post-exhibition. While not designed as a commercial endeavour, the show also saw significant Artist's book and photo print sales, highlighting its broad appeal and potential as a touring exhibition.

As one visitor noted, "This show is so powerful. I feel like I'm not alone. I get it. The sculpture speaks to me, and the poetry and photography really move me. Thank you." while another remarked, "I wish this exhibition was on for longer – so far, I've been back 4 times and each time I stay a little longer than before – just soaking up the atmosphere and the words. It feels like art that finally makes space for me. I deeply appreciate it. It's inspiring."

Exhibition Highlights





Deepest thanks for this opportunity to share my work with you. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards,

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