

MS 69: Desht Collection

About the collection:

Martin Desht is a documentary photographer based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Specialising in post-industrial urban landscapes his work has been exhibited at Harvard University, NYU, and Dartmouth College among other places. In 2006 he was the photographer in residence at Queen's University Belfast where he conducted a teaching photography project which documented the city of Belfast from a social/post-industrial point of view. This grew into an exhibition: "*A Certain Peace: Acceptance and Defiance in Northern Ireland.*" This collection, kindly donated to Special Collections, Queen's University Belfast by Mr Desht, contains the original negatives from this project as well as prints and other items such as the artist's personal notebook from the period.

Desht obtained release permission forms signed by the subject who appear in his photographs. The release forms that pertain to the photographs held in this collection are stored in our administrative files and not available for public consultation.

MS 69 Outline

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MS 69/1/1 Black and white print outs 8x10in

Series of eleven black & white images taken between the 5th March and 26th May 2006. Mostly taken around West Belfast including on the Falls and Shankill Roads, subjects include murals, including the Falls Road International Wall and a mural referencing the Shankill bomb, as well as children playing and some shots of individuals posing for the camera.

1. Two people walking past Shankill Bomb mural on Shankill Road. 1p.
2. Terraced house heavily decorated for Christmas, off Sandy Row. 1p.
3. Tourists looking at International Wall, off Falls Road. 1p.
4. Man walking through gate of Peace Line, off Falls Road. 1p.
5. Young boys playing outside "Cathy's" in Ballymurphy (the same shop also appears in MS 69/1/2). 1p.
6. Woman walks past the Rose of Sharon Restaurant and an "Ulster Souvenir" shop on the Shankill Road. 1p.
7. Teenage girls chatting beside Provisional IRA graffiti, corner of Falls Road and Ard Na Va Road. 1p.
8. Young man and boy pose for photographer, off Donegal Road. 1p.
9. Head shot of Michael Longley, poet. 1p.
10. Head shot of Michael Longley, poet. 1p.
11. Photo of Martin Desht and Peter Johnston, a pupil of his from Queens. 1p.

MS 69/1/2 Black and white print outs 9.5x12in

Series of 34 black & white images taken between the 5th and 20th May 2006.

Taken mostly in West and South Belfast with a small number of photographs taken in the East of the city. Subjects include a 12th July band parade as well as city landmarks such as the Harland & Wolff cranes.

1. Queen Mother memorial mural on Shankill Road. 1p.
2. Half demolished wall bearing paramilitary mural near Sandy Row 1p.
3. Group of young men walking along Donegal Road. 1p.
4. Two men walking past loyalist mural and graffiti warning against mural interference. 1p.
5. Four boys playing on Linfield Road. 1p.
6. Dilapidated, boarded up shop fronts on Donegal Road. 1p.
7. Man standing in doorway of terrace house on Donegal Road. 1p.
8. Conway Mills Artist's Studios. 1p.
9. Group of tourists looking at International Wall on Divis Street. 1p.

10. Anti-racist and anti-war (Iraq) murals, part of International Wall, Divis Street. 1p.
11. Group of men chatting in Belfast City Centre. 1p.
12. Three men walking along Ballygomartin Road at night 1p.
13. Albert Bridge Road exit from Connswater Shopping Centre with H&W crane in the background. 1p.
14. Albert Bridge Road Gospel Hall with man standing in doorway. 1p.
15. St Matthew's Parish Church, Shankill Road. 1p.
16. Young boys playing outside "Cathy's" in Ballymurphy. 1p.
17. Young couple walk along Whiterock Road while IRSP/INLA mural is painted in background. 1p.
18. Two boys walk along Whiterock Road while IRSP/INLA mural is painted in background. 1p.
19. Photo of flute band parading along Ballygomartin Road. 1p.
20. Photo of flute band parading past abandoned building on Ballygomartin Road. 1p.
21. Young girl runs past stretch of waste ground with loyalist murals in background, Shankill Road. 1p.
22. Shreds of Union Flag stuck on barbed wire, Shankill Road. 1p.
23. Photo of "Stevie's Fruit Shop" beside anti-PSNI graffiti. 1p.
24. Photo of couple crossing road in front of mural containing the acronym UFF, Shankill Road. 1p.
25. Man walks across waste ground in front graffiti covered wall, Shankill Road. 1p.
26. Young woman holds doll in child's car seat in front of Shankill Women's Centre. 1p.
27. Elderly man waits for bus in front of Shankill Methodist Church. 1p.
28. Man looks at photographer through binoculars in front of betting shop, Falls Rd. 1p.
29. Man walks past newsagents' shop, Falls Rd. 1p.
30. Teenage boys hanging around outside a shop, Falls Rd. 1p.
31. Man walks past pile of rubble with H&W crane in background, East Belfast. 1p.
32. Boy on bicycle on Union Flag bedecked street with bunting, H&W crane in background. 1p.
33. Young boy holding football stands beside electrical box bearing sectarian slogan, South Belfast. 1p.
34. Hospital workers pose for photograph on top of pile of wood for 11th night bonfire, Shankill Road. 1p.

MS 69/2 Film Negatives

Film negatives from Desht's time in Belfast in 2006. The film negatives are arranged by date in a white photo album and are medium format black-and-white films processed by Desht himself. There are two hundred and seventy-six frames in total.

MS 69/3 Small Prints (colour)

14 colour photographic prints from Desht's time in Belfast in size 4x6 inches. The photographs were taken mostly on the Shankill and Woodvale roads in West Belfast, also in front and behind Castlecourt Shopping Centre in the city centre, which sits near the foot of the Shankill Road.

1. Dilapidated, closed-down shop fronts, Belfast City Centre. 1p.
2. Meat being unloaded for butchers' shop, Belfast City Centre. 1p.
3. Another photo of same scene as MS 69/3/2. 1p.
4. Taxi driving through traffic lights on Woodvale Road. 1p.
5. Cars wait at red light while man crosses road, Woodvale Road. 1p.
6. View of Woodvale Road 1p.
7. View of Woodvale Road. 1p.
8. View of Woodvale Road. 1p.
9. View of Shankill Road, St Matthew's Parish Church visible. 1p.
10. View of Shankill Road from moving bus. 1p.
11. Woman with umbrella outside Credit Union, Shankill Road. 1p.
12. Couple with child walk past UDA/UYM mural, Shankill Road. 1p.
13. UYM mural viewed from across waste ground, Shankill Road. 1p.
14. Royal Avenue, bustling with shoppers. 1p.

MS 69/4 Photo Log

A Tesco Value spiral bound notebook in which Desht recorded dates and scene locations of photos he took during his residence in Belfast. The first page contains some additional notes such as on the way in which Desht has numbered his frames. 150pp. last 51 pp blank.

MS 69/5 Cassette Tape

Cassette tape bearing the notes "Martin's discussion on City Aesthetics Side A" and "With Peter Johnston 30 March 2006 Belfast N.I.". This tape was recorded while photographing the city of Belfast with Peter Johnston, Belfast resident and Queen's University Film Studies student, Spring 2006.

MS 69/6 Exhibit Announcements

Programmes from various exhibitions of "*A Certain Peace: Acceptance and Defiance in Northern Ireland*" in the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Santa Fe Public Library, DeSales University, Pennsylvania and Lafayette College, Pennsylvania.

1. Exhibit announcement from Santa Fe Public Library 4pp
2. Exhibit announcement from Lafayette College 2pp.
3. Exhibit announcement from school for advance research, Santa Fe 4pp
4. Exhibit announcement from DeSales University, Pennsylvania 4pp.

MS 69/7 CD-ROM

A CD-ROM containing images and texts from Desht's time in Belfast.

MS 69/8 Miscellaneous

Two white Ilford boxes that originally contained the large prints that now make up MS 69/1.