

Bedrooms of London

8 February - 5 May 2019



A new photographic exhibition at the Foundling Museum documents the living conditions of London's most disadvantaged children

The damaging consequences for children arising from the shortage of social housing in London are laid bare in *Bedrooms of London*, a new photo-documentary exhibition at London's Foundling Museum, created in partnership with London's child poverty charity, The Childhood Trust. The exhibition presents a new body of work by photographer Katie Wilson. Focusing on the spaces in which children are sleeping, the photographs are shown alongside first-hand narratives from families, and offer a poignant insight into the lives and experiences of children living in poverty across London.

In a city where extreme poverty and wealth exist side-by-side, *Bedrooms of London* makes visible the often shocking and unseen reality of home life for the 700,000 children currently living below the poverty line in our capital, and challenges the prejudices and stereotypes associated with child poverty.

Bedrooms of London is the result of two years of engagement by The Childhood Trust with families living in every borough of London. A book of photographs in the exhibition, alongside a report on the housing crisis and its devastating impact on children in London, will be sent to key policy makers, highlighting the challenges facing children and their families. The project was a collaboration between The Childhood Trust and award-winning social change communications agency GOOD, in response to the social housing crisis affecting London's most disadvantaged children. Presented at the Foundling Museum, *Bedrooms of London* reflects the Museum's mission to inspire everyone to make a positive contribution to society, by celebrating the power of individuals and the arts to change lives. Shown in the context of the Museum, the exhibition builds on the story of the Foundling Hospital, highlighting the situation today for some of London's most vulnerable children.

Sponsored by Safestay PLC



Press enquiries

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Notes to editors

The Foundling Museum explores the history of the Foundling Hospital, the UK's first children's charity and first public art gallery, and through a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events celebrates the ways in which artists of all disciplines have helped improve children's lives for over 275 years. The Foundling Hospital, which continues today as the children's charity Coram, was established in 1739 by the philanthropist Captain Thomas Coram, as 'a hospital for the maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children'. Instrumental in helping Coram realise his vision were the artist William Hogarth, who encouraged leading artists of the day to donate work, and the composer George Frideric Handel, who gave annual benefit concerts of his Messiah. In doing so, they created London's first public art gallery and set the template for the way in which the arts can support philanthropy.

Coram has been creating better chances for children since 1739. They help children and young people today through their pioneering work in adoption, parenting support, housing support, alcohol and drug education, creative therapies and championing legal rights in the UK and overseas. coram.org.uk

The Childhood Trust is London's child poverty charity, targeting 700,000 children living in poverty in London. The vision of Trust is to ensure that every child can realise their potential, despite poverty and disadvantage. From its work with grass roots charities across London over the last 5 years, it has gained insight into the issue of living conditions for the most vulnerable children in our communities and the impacts this has. The Trust helps vulnerable children to overcome the disadvantages caused by poverty such as hunger, homelessness, stress, loneliness and anxiety. Their work supports children from across London and is aimed at engaging the most disadvantaged children from the poorest communities. The

Childhood Trust's network of over 150 projects provides practical, emotional and inspirational support delivered by trusted, caring adults. These projects help children to achieve their full potential, despite facing many challenges. To date their work has supported over 170,000 disadvantaged children in London. Find out more at childhoodtrust.org.uk

GOOD Agency is the creative agency dedicated to positive social change. We've spent over 25 years building belief in some of the UK's biggest and best businesses, charities, brands and causes. Our work inspires everyone from employees to volunteers, from consumers to donors, from people in power to people in need. Find out more at goodagency.co.uk

Katie Wilson is a London-based photographer specialising in food, portraiture, and fashion photography. Beginning her career as a fine art printer in Sydney, Australia, and subsequently creating her own photographic work, she later returned to London to pursue what would later become Fifty Chefs, a major ongoing body of work exploring London's culinary culture. Wilson has been participating in the #CookForSyria & #BakeForSyria fundraising initiatives, with many of her images appearing throughout the campaigns. A regular contributor to The Times and The Sunday Times, Wilson's clients include Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, Tate Britain and Tate Modern, Elle Magazine, Red Magazine, Good Housekeeping and Oliver Bonas. Wilson lives in Hackney with her twin boys Hunter and River. Find out more at katiwilson.eu

Visitor Information

The Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ

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Open: Tuesday - Saturday 10:00-17:00, Sunday 11:00-17:00, Monday closed

Admission: Adults £11 with donation, Concessions £8.25 with donation. Free for children, Foundling Friends & National Art Pass holders