

# MOSTYN

21 December 2017

PRESS RELEASE  
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**Mike Perry – Land / Sea (Tir / Môr)**  
MOSTYN, Wales UK  
Gallery 3

**Exhibition Dates: 3 March - 1 July 2018**  
**Exhibition Preview Evening: Friday 2 March 2018 from 6.30pm**

MOSTYN, Wales UK is pleased to present *Land / Sea* by artist Mike Perry whose work engages with significant and pressing environmental issues, in particular the tension between human activity and interventions in the natural environment, and the fragility of the planet's ecosystems.

This major new exhibition brings together recent bodies of work addressing how the natural biodiversity of landscapes and marine environments is undermined and made toxic by human neglect, agricultural mismanagement and the pursuit of short-term profit at the expense of long-term sustainability.

Combining conceptual aesthetics with a pressing concern for the marine environment, Perry's images shed a different light on the health of the seascapes one might see in tourist brochures. *Môr Plastig* (welsh for 'Plastic Sea') is an ongoing body of work that classifies objects washed up by the sea into groupings; bottles, shoes, grids, abstracts, and others. By using a high-resolution camera to capture the surface detail, the artist allows the viewer to 'read' markings and scars etched into the objects by the ocean over months and, in some cases, years. The viewer is intrigued and challenged by how a polluting object can be so aesthetically appealing. In Perry's words, "in addition to seeing these pieces as symbols of over-consumption and disregard for the environment, I also see them as evidence of the beauty and power of nature to sculpt our world".

Perry's work resists easy categorisation. Photography is central to his practice, yet always in its multifaceted relationship to, and dialogue with, sculpture and installation art. The influence of Minimalism is strong, with serial arrangements and grids, and an interest in form, surface detail and abstraction. Repetition of visual motifs in specific bodies of work is deployed as an artistic strategy that is cumulative and greater than its parts, teasing out subtle differences whilst alerting us to the dystopian consequences of waste proliferation and environmental mismanagement.

The artist's most recent work has focused on the coastline and rugged landscapes of West Wales close to the smallholding he owns, where he puts into practice the planting of native trees that restore and sustain the natural biodiversity. By collecting and photographing man-made objects washed up on the beaches, and recording in forensic detail the changing landscape around us, Perry alerts us to man's impact on the ecosystem and to nature's propensity to renew itself, even in the face of such adversity.

*Land/Sea* is originally produced by Ffotogallery, Cardiff, and curated by David Drake, Ffotogallery, and Ben Borthwick, Plymouth Arts Centre. The exhibition in MOSTYN has been developed in dialogue with Adam Carr, Visual Arts Programme Curator, and Alfredo Cramerotti, Director. The accompanying publication includes contributions from the writers George Monbiot and Skye Sherwin.

For press queries/images, please email Lin Cummins, [lin@mostyn.org](mailto:lin@mostyn.org), or call 01492 879201.

### About the Artist

After a postgraduate degree in economics and thirteen years in media, Mike Perry left the world of commerce to focus on his art and environmental projects. He now lives in West Wales. His work is increasingly influenced by the surrounding landscape and environmental concerns.

In 2007, Perry was a featured artist in BBC 4's Arts Documentary, *Britain in Pictures*. In 2012, he was part of the group show *New Ground: Landscape Art In Wales since 1970*, curated by National Museum Wales, including Richard Long, David Nash and Keith Arnatt. In July 2014, his *Môr Plastig* work was included in The Black and White Room at The Royal Academy of Arts, curated by artist Cornelia Parker. In 2015, Perry was selected to exhibit at the internationally curated *Vita Vitale* exhibition at The 56th Venice Biennale. Later that year he received a Creative Wales Award from the Arts Council of Wales. In 2016, Perry was included in the exhibition *Found* at the Foundling Museum, London, alongside artists such as Anthony Gormley, Cornelia Parker and Rachel Whiteread. In 2017/18, the *Land/Sea* exhibition will tour England and Wales. Work from his *Wet Deserts* series is included in *A Green And Pleasant Land: Landscape Photography in Britain since 1970*, curated by The Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne.

### About MOSTYN

MOSTYN presents international art and culture of our time, activating people's lives through exhibitions, cultural programmes and commercial activities. Situated in the coastal town of Llandudno, it is Wales' foremost contemporary gallery and visual arts centre, serving as a place to form and share new perspectives through artistic/curatorial practice and audience engagement.

MOSTYN receives financial support from the Arts Council of Wales and Conwy County Borough Council Art Service. Mostyn Gallery Ltd is a registered charity trading as MOSTYN.

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**Open Tuesday – Sunday**  
**10.30am – 4.00pm**

ADMISSION FREE

