

## BIOGRAPHY

David Bate is a teacher, visual artist and writer known specifically for his work on avant-garde culture. He studied at Portsmouth College of Art before going on to study on the influential Polytechnic of Central London BA (Hons) Film and Photographic Arts course, taught by Victor Burgin, Derek Drage, John Goto, Simon Watney and others. After working as a photographer and tutor in London he took the MA in Social History of Art at the University of Leeds, also completing a PHD there with Griselda Pollock in the 1990s.

He was, along with Wendy McMurdo, one of the first UK photographic artists to experiment with digital photographic processes, he created the series *European Letters* in 1992 and was commissioned for a sequel work *Strangers* by Camerawork Gallery in the mid 1990s. The work used the new digital techniques to create a strangeness in the new reality of digital culture and concerned the 'new Europe' after the collapse of the Soviet union. His visual work runs parallel to an interest in Surrealist aesthetics, e.g. *Zero Culture* (2000) was a meditation on culture at the millennial moment; an experimental photo-narrative work; while the series *Zone* (2001) shot in Estonia in Eastern Europe developed the haunting alterity of Tarkovsky's film *Stalker*. This work has travelled widely. The more recent work *Bungled Memories*, are still life pictures of domestic accidents that have occurred in his kitchen. Most recently he was Artist-in-Residence in Melbourne, Australia where he shot his new work on 'globalization' called *Australian Picnic*. His writings include the two books *Photography and Surrealism* and *Photography: Key Concepts*. The series of photographs *ZONE* and other works are forthcoming as monographs.

A founder member of the artist-run gallery *Accident*, later re-named as *Five Years*. Originally located in Underwood Street at the heart of the Shoreditch art scene in 90s London, which hosted his solo shows *Beauty of the Horrid* (1997) and *Taking in the Air* (1999). He also co-curated several shows there including *What is a Photograph?* and *What is Love?*

Also an influential teacher, he was eventually course leader of the famous British Social Documentary Photography programme at Surrey Institute of Art (now University of the Creative Arts) at Farnham. Other teachers there included Martin Parr, Keith Arnatt, Anna Fox, Peter Kennard, Yve Lomax and Peter Hall. He later moved to the University of Westminster, where he is currently leads photography research including doctoral candidates and the MA Photographic Studies programme.