



FOTOFESTIWAL 9th International Festival of Photography in Lodz, Poland,
www.fotofestival.com, 6th-30th of May 2010

ALL MY LOVIN'

interview with Peggy Sue Amison

How come that you started this cooperation? Did you carry out any common projects before?

The idea which became *All My Lovin'* began during the Meeting Place review at Photofest Houston 2 years ago (2008). Krzysztof and I reviewed and saw a lot of photographs about love and relationships, made by the artists coming to our reviews. One artist's work in particular, Doug Dubois' *All the Days and Nights*, really stuck with us. We couldn't stop talking about it. These conversations led us to other conversations about human relationships. Why do we connect to the people we form relationships with? What makes us pick certain people over others? Sometimes these relationships occur through happenstance, sometimes through reactions to other experiences in our lives. And how these relationships can be both equally challenging and rewarding. And how photographers translate these experiences into their works and how this affects their audiences...

I've worked with Łódź Fotofestival and the wonderful people at Łódź Art Centre since 2005, and I was really honoured when Krzysztof Candrowicz asked me to curate this exhibition with him. This is my first experience working with Christoph Tannert and it's been a great pleasure – I hope that more common projects will grow out of this collaboration.

What does the title *All my lovin'* mean?

When we were in Cobh, discussing the exhibition and making our first plans, we needed a title – we were thinking of pop songs, because of course all pop songs feature LOVE as their main subject. And since this exhibition was to look at many different ways in which love is expressed, it seemed perfect to use the title of the Beatles' song *All My Loving*. It was Krzysztof's idea, and we all agreed.

How did you work on the exhibition? How did you found photographers?

We had a number of curatorial meetings, in Berlin, Łódź and Cobh. A call out was made initially, but then we did some research, and found a lot of people through colleagues, friends and the Internet, as well as through the initial jury selection.

One of the inspirations for this exhibition was Doug Dubois' project. What was the most touching and surprising thing in his works?

Doug's work is really incredibly honest. It's a collection of 20 years of his family, and for us he really captured the pleasure and pain of the family – these people you know for

your entire life, and how your relationships change and grow or split apart through the years. We just thought it was astoundingly beautiful and vulnerable work.

Did anything surprise you when you worked on the exhibition?

I was really surprised with how much analytical work is done on relationships. There are so many photographers who analyse their love relationships, their parents, their siblings and family, their boyfriends, girlfriends, wives, husbands and lovers. Also, the seriousness that a lot of photographers take when working with the theme of love – it took us a little while to find artists who worked with humour and love. And that's a huge part of relationships as well. I feel that there are still a lot of facets to love that we haven't been able to find – we had to draw the line somewhere, but I still think we could keep putting work into the show and never cover all the aspects of love.

Do you have any further plans regarding this exhibition?

The exhibition will travel to Berlin and to Ireland after being exhibited in Łódź. Also, some of the artists had a few images in a group exhibition in Cork entitled *Bittersweet* in February 2010.

Humour, passion, struggle, history and compromise – what did you find in the submitted photographs?

A little bit of everything – I think the most amazing thing we found in this work was the willingness of the artists and their models to be so honest about the people they love and the pleasure as well as the excruciating pain they experience due to those relationships. Their honesty is a great gift and will make this show superb!