

# No.10

*For Immediate Release*



*Good Rats* Niall O'Brien, Opening Reception Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011

No.10 is pleased to announce the first New York solo show of Irish photographer Niall O'Brien, *Good Rats*. Since 2006 O'Brien has been documenting a group of young British punks from Southwest London he first came in contact with while making a vox pop documentary called *Superheroes*. After spending just a short time with this tight knit group, O'Brien realized that this by chance meeting was an opportunity he couldn't let pass by. Hence, he has spent the last nearly five years gaining the groups trust and acceptance, traveling with them from Brighton to Berlin (where O'Brien got arrested on the groups behalf), and documenting their lives from fifteen-year-old kids to young adults.

O'Brien's images sit somewhere between the visual diary of an insider and the quiet observance of a voyeur, and that's exactly where he places the viewer. The colors, subjects and environments are lushly rich and give the eye enough to envelop without having to scratch the surface, but its hard not to. Punks have long had a strong connotation, especially in England, but this is not a political endeavor in the same manner of the punks of the late seventies. For O'Brien, the fact that these kids are punks are second to what they represent as members of youth culture. There is plenty of nihilism and escapism, adventure and camaraderie, but there is also loneliness and introspection. The malaise of youth culture and the nihilistic behavior we use to combat it has interested photographers and filmmakers for decades, but it O'Brien's commitment to this group and his very specific involvement with them which makes his images so interesting both visually and philosophically. As O'Brien himself says, 'I've always been intrigued to see where they'd end up – which has pretty much signed me up for a long-term commitment.' *Good Rats* doesn't pretend to give us any definitive answers or closures, but then again neither does our youth.

Born in Dublin in 1979, Irish photographer and filmmaker Niall O'Brien studied fine art photography at the renowned Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology. He has exhibited widely in both Ireland and England and has many awards to his name, including the Irish Professional Photographer's Association Rex Roberts Medal and the International Portfolio Review Bratislava "Top 20 Portfolios". In October 2010 Niall was accepted as one of 49 artists to show in the Singapore International Photography Festival at the Lim Hak Tai Gallery, NAFA. His most recent film *Anger* was shown at Block T Gallery in Dublin as part of the 2011 Photo Ireland Festival.

No.10, is a new gallery located in Tribeca. Founded by Madeleine Kiersztan of Ms4 Production and curated by Rebecca Roberts and Caitlin Phillips, No.10 is committed to providing a platform for fashion and photography industry creatives through exhibitions, collaborative projects and publishing opportunities. In addition, 10 has a strong commitment towards engaging and supporting the emerging artist community.

No.10 is located at 10 Leonard Street, New York, NY. For more information please email us at [hello@no10gallery.com](mailto:hello@no10gallery.com) or call 212.226.2910. Gallery hours are M-F 10am-6pm and by appointment.