

ARTFORUM

Mark Curran

GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Meeting House Square, Temple Bar

August 24–October 1

“The Market” is the culmination of Mark Curran’s project that charts the reverberations of stock markets, specifically looking at the aftermath of global economic collapse affecting those who work within the sector. Documentation in the form of interviews and photography are on view among other works. Photographic portraits of stock exchange workers in Dublin, London, and Addis Ababa are paired with videos and installations. Large C-prints starkly titled *Matthew, Banker* and *Anthony Analyst*, both 2013, depict somber suited individuals at work. *Bethlehem, Trader*, 2012, shows a young woman clad in overalls alone on the floor of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange, the world’s newest stock exchange. Heavily redacted transcripts of interviews with market traders are presented in plain manila folders at reading tables. Bankers were given the option to make edits to the interviews, and their marks indicate a keen desire for anonymity. Elsewhere, *The Normalisation of Deviance I*, 2013, is a video, created by an algorithm, of every time Michael Noonan, Ireland’s minister of finance, has used the word “market” since taking office. Curran points out in the accompanying text that 80 percent of all trading in the U.S. is now dictated by algorithms.



Mark Curran, *Bethlehem, Trader, Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX)*, 2013, digital C-print, dimensions variable.

“The Market” is part of a wider program of exhibitions, including “Labor and Lockout” at the Limerick City Gallery of Art, “Momentous Times” at the Centre for Contemporary Art Derry~Londonderry, and a second iteration of Curran’s “The Market” at Belfast Exposed. These mark the centenary of the 1913 Dublin Lockout, a landmark moment in Irish labor relations when workers on strike over their right to unionize were locked out of factories for seven months. Presented as an antithesis to the idea of being locked out of the structures of work, this exhibition explores a defining system that we are locked into but is inadequately understood—even by those who work at its core.

— Gemma Tipton

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