***Val Williams***

***Found and Located 1999-2010***

This selection of works reflects my interest in archives and in found and located photographs. All of the work on show has been used in exhibitions or published. *Found in the Gutter: Bethnal* *Green, 1996,* was originally shown as an archive exhibition at the Hasselblad Center, Gothenburg. *English Murders* was shown as a large outside work at the 1998 Shoreditch Biennale and ‘*Pictures from Robert’s* was recently published in the *Journal of* *Photography&Culture.*

All the work has been enlarged from snapshots and Polaroid’s to change its context and enable new ways of looking. The photographs on show come from much larger series.

I am attracted to the unknown-ness of these images. The Bethnal Green photographs were part of a set of around 20 found by my daughter abandoned outside a block of flats in East London. It was raining as she gathered them up. They are all portraits of the same girl.

‘English Murders’ were discovered in the *Daily Herald* archive at the National Media Museum. Greg Hobson and I included them in our jointly curated exhibition *The Dead* as vintage prints. These were enlarged from the originals, printed as inkjets and tied to railings near Hoxton Square as part of the *Artist and the Archive* edition of the Shoreditch Biennale. The first set was stolen, while on show, this is the second printing.

*Pictures from Robert’s* is a selection from a set of almost 100 American snapshots which I bought in 2010 from Robert’s Rummage in Hastings. This shop is opposite my house and is a constant source of images, objects and ideas. Other collections I have amassed from Robert’s include a set of wooden Swiss Chalet musical boxes; storks made of horn and souvenir costume dolls from the 1960s.

I have consistently used archival, found and located photographs in exhibitions which I have curated since the early 1990s. They provide a counterpoint to work made professionally, or in the name of art. For me, they are satisfying mysteries.

[Individual Captions]

**Found in the Gutter: Bethnal Green, 1996**

Enlarged from Polaroid photographs, inkjet prints, laminated.

Originally shown at the Hasselblad Center, Gothenburg, Sweden in 2000

**English Murders, 1998**

From the Daily Herald Collection at the National Media Museum.

Enlarged from vintage photographs, inkjet prints, laminated.

From a set of six, originally shown at the 1998 Shoreditch Biennale

**Pictures from Roberts, 2010**

A selection of photographs taken from a set of 100 American snapshots.

Digital prints, mounted and laminated