

COLLECTIVE
GALLERY



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PRESS RELEASE

Lucy Levene

Marrying In (Please God by You)

Preview: Friday 12 April 7-9 pm

Exhibition dates: 10 April - 5 May 2002

Do you think of yourself as Scottish? British? European? What's the most important factor in determining how you conceive of your identity? The geographical location of your birth? Or the culture you grew up in?

For many people these are easy questions to answer. However for immigrants and émigrés who, for whatever reason find themselves culturally dislocated, or relocated, such questions are harder to answer. Trying to define who and what you are in an alien culture is a fraught task. As we've seen repeatedly throughout this century, as western cultures become more multicultural and secular, the issues of assimilation and integration or isolationism and separation become more pronounced. All too many bloody wars and conflicts have been ignited by fears over corroded ethnic purity and vanishing cultural heritages.

Lucy Levene's work is concerned with examining how some of these questions of cultural and religious identity are played out within the Jewish community. Levene's photographs reveal a questioning, slightly disconnected relationship with the more orthodox elements of Jewish culture, specifically its religious doctrines. Specifically her staged photographs, are prompted by the assumption that Jewish girls will marry Jewish men. This forms the loaded cultural backdrop that underpins her sharp capturing of cultural dislocation. Throughout her work there's a sense of being both an insider and an outsider.

Please contact the gallery for further information or images on 0131 220 1260.