Press Release

**ONLY IN ENGLAND: PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY RAY-JONES AND MARTIN PARR**

Saturday 9 July to Sunday 25 September 2016, The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge, Canterbury.

• **Nearly 50 previously unseen works by British Photographer Tony Ray-Jones go on display at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge.**

• **Shown alongside early black and white photographs taken by Martin Parr in the 1970s.**

• **The exhibition will explore the relationship between these two seminal British photographers and their fascination with the English**

A major exhibition of work by British Photographer, Tony Ray-Jones (1941-1972) will open at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge in Canterbury on Saturday 9 July 2016.

The exhibition will feature over 100 works drawn from the Tony Ray-Jones archive at the National Media Museum alongside 30 rarely seen early black and white photographs, *The Non-Conformists*, by Martin Parr.

Between 1966 and 1969 Tony Ray-Jones created a body of photographic work documenting English customs and identity. Humorous yet melancholy, these photographs were a departure from anything else being produced at the time. They quickly attracted the attention of the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London where they were exhibited in 1969. Tragically, in 1972, Ray-Jones died from Leukaemia aged just 30. However, his short but prolific career had a lasting influence on the development of British photography from the 1970s through to the present.

In 1970, Martin Parr, a photography student at Manchester Polytechnic, had been introduced to Ray-Jones. Inspired by him, Parr produced *The Non-Conformists, s*hot in black and white in Hebden Bridge and the surrounding Calder Valley. This project started within two years of Ray-Jones death and demonstrates his legacy and influence.

This special exhibition draws from the Tony Ray-Jones archive, held by the National Media Museum. Around 50 vintage prints will be on display alongside an equal number of photographs which have never previously been printed.

Director of Canterbury Museums & Galleries, Joanna Jones said:

*“An important aspect of The Beaney’s exhibition programme is to showcase the very best photography which we are continuing through this partnership with the Science Museum and National Media Museum”.*

Greg Hobson, curator of Photographs at the National Media Museum says, ‘The combination of Martin Parr and Tony Ray-Jones’s work will allow the viewer to trace an important trajectory through the history of British photography, and present new ways of thinking about photographic histories through creative use of our collections.’

***Only in England: Photographs by Tony Ray-Jones and Martin Parr is on in the Special Exhibitions Room at The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge from 9 July to 25 September 2016***

***Admission: Pay What You Can***

The exhibition is a Media Space production. Media Space is a collaboration between the Science Museum (London) and the National Media Museum (Bradford). Media Space will showcase the National Photography Collection of the National Media Museum through a series of exhibitions. Alongside this, photographers, artists and the creative industries will respond to the wider collections of the Science Museum Group to explore visual media, technology and science.

**For further press information and images please contact James Williams, Head of Marketing, The Beaney House of Art & Knowledge:** **james.williams@canterbury.gov.uk**

Exhibition Organised and Toured by:



**Notes**

Tony Ray-Jones was born in Somerset in 1941. He studied graphic design at the London School of Printing before leaving the UK in 1961 to study on a scholarship at Yale University in Connecticut, US. He followed this with a year long stay in New York during which he attended classes by the influential art director Alexey Brodovitch, and became friends with photographers Joel Meyerowitz and Garry Winogrand. In 1966 he returned to find a Britain still divided by class and tradition. *A Day Off- An English Journal,* a collection of photographs he took between 1967-1970 was published posthumously in 1974 and in 2004 the National Media Museum held a major exhibition, *A Gentle Madness: The Photographs of Tony Ray-Jones.*

Martin Parr was born in Epsom, Surry in 1952. He graduated from Manchester Polytechnic in 1974 and moved to Hebden Bridge in West Yorkshire, where he established the ‘Albert Street Workshop’, a hub for artistic activity in the town. Fascinated by the variety of non-conformist chapels and the communities he encountered in the town he produced *The Non-Conformists.* In 1984 Parr began to work in colour and his breakthrough publication *The Last Resort* was published in 1986. A Magnum photographer, Parr is now an internationally renowned photographer, filmmaker, collector and curator, best-known for his highly saturated colour photographs critiquing modern life.