

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

## Press Release

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Images are available to download [here](#)

This press release is available in a variety of accessible formats. Please email [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

## Samuel Laurence Cunnane *Blue Road* 17 February - 3 May 2026



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

The Hayward Gallery, in partnership with the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.), will present **Samuel Laurence Cunnane: *Blue Road***. This will mark the Irish artist's London debut and the fifth exhibition in the RC Foundation Project Space Exhibition Series, which showcases the next generation of emerging international artists.

The exhibition will take place in the HENI Project Space in the Southbank Centre's Hayward Gallery – a space that offers the opportunity for audiences to discover exhibitions from new artistic voices for free.

*Blue Road* will survey Kerry-based analogue photographer Samuel Laurence Cunnane's work to date, featuring traditional photographic prints developed by hand in his darkroom studio. Cunnane travels by van across Europe and beyond for long periods, capturing fleeting scenes that result in luminous images that reveal remarkable beauty hidden in plain sight. The titular work, for example, depicts a stretch of newly tarmacked road that appears as a deep blue river gleaming in the early evening light. Responding to the digital nature of contemporary image-making, Cunnane encourages viewers to look more intently in moments of stillness, emphasising light and atmosphere to reveal the world as the naked eye truly sees it.

**Yung Ma, Senior Curator of the Hayward Gallery**, says: “We’re thrilled to present Samuel’s London debut as part of our partnership with the RC Foundation. The show continues our ongoing commitment to showcase international emerging voices and introducing them to new audiences. The subtle beauty and emotions in Samuel’s work encourages a moment of reflection in the everyday, and we look forward to seeing what new meanings our audiences will uncover.”

**Samuel Laurence Cunnane** says: “This show is a distillation of many years of work, it serves as an overview but also a through line. From years of quite literally wandering and recording, this is a constellation of those impressions. My work is an exploration of the space between a so-called reality and our experience of it.”

The HENI Project Space is a vital part of the Southbank Centre’s vast array of free programming, introducing new international voices and providing accessible cultural experiences for all to enjoy. Since its establishment in 2007, the space has platformed artists including Hicham Berrada, Thabiso Sekgala, Val Lee, Huang Po-Chih, Kate Cooper, Heecheon Kim, Amol K Patil.

*Samuel Lawrence Cunnane: Blue Road* is curated by Assistant Curator Thomas Sutton. Additional support provided by the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan (R.O.C.).

*Samuel Laurence Cunanne: Blue Road* will be presented during the Southbank Centre’s 75th anniversary year alongside **Chiharu Shiota: *Threads of Life*** and **Yin Xiuzhen: *Heart to Heart***. More information on the exhibition can be found [HERE](#).

**-ENDS-**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Image Credits L-R**

- Samuel Laurence Cunnane, *Blue Road*, 2023. Hand-printed C-type print on archival photo paper © Samuel Laurence Cunnane. Courtesy of the Artist.
- *Walnut Trees* (2017): Hand-printed C-type print on archival photo paper, framed. Image Size: 18.7 x 25.5. Framed Size: 41.4 x 48.2 x 3 (all dimensions in cm).
- *Green river* (2019): Hand-printed C-type print on archival photo paper, framed. Image Size: 22.5 x 30.6. Framed Size: 45 x 53 (all dimensions in cm).

### **Exhibition Listing Information**

#### ***Samuel Laurence Cunane: Blue Road***

17 February - 3 May 2026

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX  
Free.

#### **The Hayward Gallery opening times:**

Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm

Sat, 10am – 8pm

Sun, 10am – 6pm

Further information:

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

Twitter: [@haywardgallery](https://twitter.com/haywardgallery)

Instagram: [@hayward.gallery](https://www.instagram.com/hayward.gallery)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/](https://www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/)

### **About Samuel Laurence Cunnane**

Samuel Laurence Cunnane (b. 1989, Co. Kerry, Ireland) studied Photography in IADT, Dun Laoghaire. He was most recently a recipient of a year long residency in the Internationales Kunstlehaus Villa Concordia in Bamberg, Germany and has been the subject of exhibitions at Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris (2025); Öktem&Aykut, Istanbul (2025, 2021, 2017); Kerlin Gallery, Dublin (2024, 2020, 2015); OCT Boxes Museum of Art, Shunde, China (2018); Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2016) and THEODORE: Art, New York (2015). Cunnane's work can be found in the collections of OCT Boxes Art Museum, Shunde, China; The TIA Collection, Sante Fe, USA; the National Gallery of Ireland; the Arts Council of Ireland; the Trinity College Art Collection, Dublin.

### **About the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.)**

Founded in 1995 by Rong Chuan Chen, RC Foundation has been a visionary force in promoting Taiwanese contemporary art on the global stage. An active champion in fostering cultural and artistic exchanges, RC Foundation has been supporting artists, curators and independent art spaces from Taiwan through grants and partnerships, both locally and internationally. These long-term relationships have nurtured and enriched numerous artistic projects from different perspectives, generating invaluable connections between Taiwan's contemporary art practitioners and their global counterparts.

### **About the HENI Project Space**

The HENI Project Space sits within the Hayward Gallery and is committed to giving a platform to artists whose work is lesser known in the UK. Originally opened in 2007, the project space hosts exhibitions every year by both emerging and newly established artists, as well as significant expressions of broader visual culture. Tying firmly into Hayward Gallery's mission to present eye-opening visual art that inspires, pushes boundaries and speaks to global discourses, the HENI Project Space focuses on innovative forms of art making and provides a platform for presenting the latest developments in contemporary art from across the globe.

### **About the Hayward Gallery**

The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Bruce Nauman, Anish Kapoor, Lee Bul, Andreas Gursky, Tracey Emin, Jeremy Deller, Kader Attia and Mike Nelson, as well as influential group exhibitions such as Africa Remix, Light Show, Psycho Buildings and Space Shifters. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

### **About the Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people

as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). [www.southbankcentre.co.uk/](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/)



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