

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Martin Parr"

6 September - 1 November 2014

**Opening Reception and Book Signing: Saturday, 6 September 2014, 4 – 6pm
(Guided Tour by Artist at 3 – 4pm)**

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road,
Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30am to 6:30pm (Sunday and Monday by
appointment only); closed on public holidays

***"I make serious photographs disguised as entertainment. That's part of my mantra."
– Martin Parr***



Blindspot Gallery is delighted to present British photographer Martin Parr's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong, "Martin Parr", a diverse showcase of the work of Parr who is famous for his satirical and humorous social documentary on modern life. The exhibition spotlights select works from his recent *Hong Kong* project (2013) commissioned by Blindspot Gallery, alongside selections from two of his iconic past series, *The Last Resort* (1983 to 1985) and *Luxury* (1995 to present). An art book titled *Hong Kong Parr* will be co-published by Blindspot Gallery, riding on the opening of the artist's debut solo show in Hong Kong.

Bridging the divide between art and documentary photography, Parr's work features the recurrent subjects of consumption, leisure, food culture and national eccentricities, which take on a vibrant rendition in his *Hong Kong* project. From the faces of Mainland tourists in Hong Kong's shopping districts, local people in an entertainment whirlwind at the racecourse or the ballroom, to gory raw food in the wet market, Parr captures the intensity of urban life in Hong Kong as well as the social and cultural peculiarities of the city.

An iconic series on its publication in 1986 and Parr's first work in colour, *The Last Resort* portrays Britain's working classes vacating at the decaying holiday resort of Brighton, a metaphor for the country's dreams and struggles in the early 1980s. Shot in various locations across the world, *Luxury* depicts the rich showing off their wealth in different scenarios, as an epigraph to today's culture of excess and greed.



In collaboration with the Hong Kong International Photo Festival (HKIPF), a public talk on Parr's work will be held on 7 September at Hong Kong Central Library. In the talk, Parr will discuss his long career in photography and explain how both the world of photography and his practice have changed.

Martin Parr will be present at the opening reception and provide a guided tour. Media interviews are welcome and can be arranged.



Blindspot Gallery would like to acknowledge Project Producer Ezra Emerson, Shooting Assistants Phil Shek and Paul Yeung for the *Hong Kong* project.

About Martin Parr

Martin Parr is a pioneer of contemporary photographic culture, an avid photography book collector and the president of Magnum Photos. In addition to large-scale retrospectives of his work in the Barbican Art Gallery in London (2002), Haus de Kunst in Munich (2008) and other prestigious venues, Parr's accolades have included the Dr. Erich Salomon Award of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Photographie (DGPh) (2006) and Photo Espania lifetime achievement prize (2008). He is the co-author of three volumes of the highly influential *The Photobook: A History*, and he is currently working on a book about the History of Chinese Photobook to be published in spring 2015. Parr has published over 80 books of his own work and edited another 30.

About Blindspot Gallery

Blindspot Gallery is set up to bring contemporary photography, an art form that has entered the blind spot of the Hong Kong art scene to a higher degree of visibility. We feature both established and emerging photographers and artists, mainly from the region but also beyond.

For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email info@blindspotgallery.com

Image captions:

Martin Parr, *Hong Kong*, 2013, Pigment print, 101.6 x 152.4 cm (Ed. of 5 + AP) / 50.8 x 76.2 cm (Ed. of 10 + AP)

Martin Parr, *England. New Brighton. From 'The Last Resort'*, 1983-1985, Pigment print, 101.6 x 127 cm (Ed. of 5 + AP) / C-print, 42 x 51.5 cm (Uneditioned)

Martin Parr, *Ireland. Galway Races*, 1997, C-print, 101.6 x 152.4 cm (Ed. of 5 + AP) / 50.8 x 76.2 cm (Ed. of 25 + AP)

(Images courtesy of artist Martin Parr, Blindspot Gallery and Magnum Photos)