

Lee Edwards 'No One in the World'
solo show at Gimpel Fils London in March 2008.

Lee Edwards creates intricate and detailed works of art. His series of etched photographs exhibited Downstairs at Gimpel Fils (in March 2008) demonstrate a dedication to meticulous illustration and a preoccupation with the processes of making art. Eight photographs each measuring 4 by 6 inches depict familiar scenes: a bedroom with a laundry rack or a living room full of furniture and carrier bags. However on closer inspection the images dissolve and Edwards' imagination changes these everyday spaces into something new and unfamiliar. In one work a bedroom wall transforms into a weeping willow tree whilst in another, an exterior wall becomes see-through and the view from a window continues into the interior space.

The intimate spaces of Edwards' work bear a lot of personal weight, recalling family life and personal relationships. The absence of people in these images is underscored by their symbolic presence, indicated by clothes and personal objects, or the demarcation of personal space. A teenage bedroom suggests a longing to escape domestic monotony, while the dreamlike quality of Saphia's Room enables the imagination to explore the possibilities of life beyond the confines of the home.

The duality of presence and absence in Edwards' work is reiterated in the physical properties of each photograph. His painstaking process of working, in which the surface of the photograph is removed in thin layers, creates new and displaced spaces underneath or beyond the depicted walls and carpets. Boundaries are blurred, the interior of the photograph is exposed, walls become permeable and inside becomes outside. What is additionally astonishing about Edwards' work is the visibility of time. His etched photographs display the irrefutable fact that he has spent hours working on each image. His skill is balanced however with his evocative imagery, ultimately creating a body of work that is visually intriguing as well as rich with underlying commentary.