

# No Hidden Door Collection | Artist: Louise Whelan

## Artist Statement

In collaboration with Insight Exchange and The No Hidden Doors Project these artworks aim to use the power of collective action to create an environment that evokes a response.

The No Hidden Doors Collection was created with the purpose of using art and image making as a way of critiquing the system. Of bearing witness to the current status quo from a lived experience-centric approach. An approach from the outside - in. Stages of provocation have been imagined with doorway tableaux for viewers to decode and in turn respond to the many layers of interactions, intentions and experiences otherwise not seen. Where the experience takes the leading role in the work.

*"The painter constructs, the photographer discloses."* — Susan Sontag, On Photography

A myriad of encounters in the portal. Unseen bodies with whispering tones, forceful actioned blurred movements, seizing, grasping, dodging, camouflaging. Weighty encounters pushing against gravity and oscillating between the known and unknown. Unsigned, unposted re-worked, outdate entries and mirrored mazes where reclamation of access is a sort-after-state. The fulfilment of a response is not yet achieved.

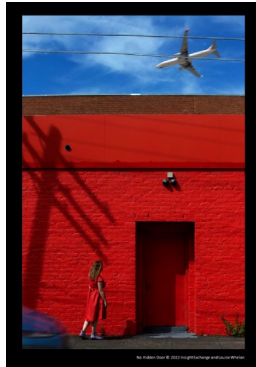
Scale, transparency, colour and art direction play out in the images not just as a tools of photographic image making, but as signals and visual cues for meaning making. Creating an emergent awareness that transcribes to fragments of experiences.

The gaze transfers from the subject to the viewer in the hope for shifting insights and actionable outcomes.

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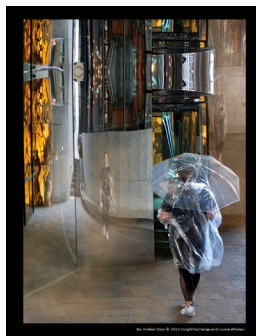
[www.insightexchange.net/no-hidden-door](http://www.insightexchange.net/no-hidden-door)

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### **Red Door**

*Red alert. Anyone, anywhere anytime. Hovering near the access of a hidden door, layered with dominating sharp-edged shadows. Will I be heard amongst the noise?*



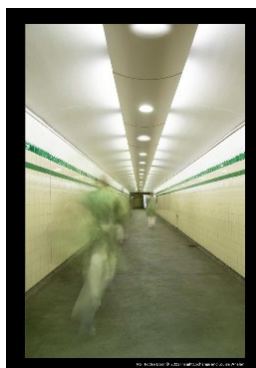
### **Smoke and Mirrors**

*A collage of opportunity, in this maze of revolving potential access. The duality of the smoke and mirrors intended to disguise or draw attention away from the often-unpleasant issue. I am prepared and ready. Will I find the right door to enter?*



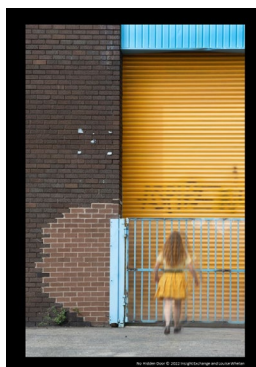
### **Old Double Doors**

*I feel like I am liaising with the unseen, my effort seems futile. Will my safety be compromised by entering? Have I come to the right place? Is anyone even expecting me?*



### **Tunnel**

*Traces of the human computer interactions with this relentless quest for help. Time passes through me. Am I in a void? Will I ever pass through the door?*



### **Yellow Door**

*Embodied in the access of this forced entry, I see people have been here before me. They have left me clues that I cannot read. No sign posting for easy access. Is my problem worthy of a response? Do I have the right to gain access?*