



BILL OWENS ARCHIVE Milano

**МУСИЗ/MUSIZ**  
ФОНДАЦИЯ FOUNDATION

## PRESS RELEASE

**BILL OWENS ARCHIVE MILANO + MUSIZ FOUNDATION SOFIA**  
**presents:**

**BILL OWENS**  
***Suburbia, now and then***  
**30 November 2015 – 10 January 2016**

**Presenting an iconic series of photographs that chronicle the growth of Californian suburbia in the 70s, U.S. photographer Bill Owens's first solo exhibition in the Central/East Europe.**

Bill Owens, one of the most established artists of his generation, is highly influential for an entire generation of American photographers in the lineage of social documentary.

Gaining much acclaim for his now iconic series of black & white photographs entitled **Suburbia**, Owens documented the birth of newly-built suburban neighbourhoods in California during the early 70s.

A newcomer himself to one of these districts at the time, Owens's **Suburbia** is a landmark chronicle of residential explosion. The burgeoning suburban culture that was quietly, but rapidly, expanding at the time is candidly and charmingly portrayed in Owens's photo essay. With images of families, furniture, lawns, tupperware parties and formica, these photographs offer an insight into aspirations for the domestic American dream at the time.

Alongside **Suburbia**, Owens will be presenting his more recent color series **New Suburbia**, which documents his return to some of the same locations as his original series. Offering a more contemporary insight into these particular American communities, Owens provides a unique sociological perspective on how these suburban regions have developed and matured.

The exhibition is in collaboration with *Bill Owens Archives USA + Milano* and curated by **Claudia Zanfi, director at Bill Owens Archive Milano.**

## **INFO details:**

**Press preview: 30 November, 4.00 p.m.**

**Opening: 30 November, 6.30 p.m.**

**Artists talk takes place on 1 December, 6.30 p.m.**

**Address: VIVACOM Art Hall, 4 Gurko St., Sofia 1000, Bulgaria**

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## **About the artist:**

Bill Owens was born in San Jose, California, and lives and works in Hayward, San Francisco Bay area. He received a B.A. in Industrial Arts from the California State University in Chico, California, in 1963 and entered the San Francisco State College in 1966 to study photography. His images have been widely reproduced in books, publications and magazines such as *Rolling Stone*, *Bomb*, *Esquire* and *Newsweek*. His work is included in the most important private and public collections: Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Los Angeles County Art Museum; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; among others. A first retrospective of Owens' work was organized by the San Jose Museum of Art in 2000.

## **About the curator:**

Claudia Zanfi, is art historian and cultural promoter. She studied contemporary art and semiotics with Umberto Eco. She is interested in transdisciplinary cultures and new landscapes. From 1995 to 2003 she is curator at *Contemporary Art Museum* in Modena. She is artistic director of the web project *Virtual Gallery* on contemporary photography and video. She collaborates with various art magazines. She founded the cultural agency aMAZElab ([www.amaze.it](http://www.amaze.it)) and MAST (Museo di Arte Sociale e Territoriale). She's lecturer at the International Master *Urban Vision and Architectural Design* at Domus Academy, Milano and at the Middlesex University of London.