THE NORTHERN IRELAND TROUBLES: WHAT WAS THERE TO PHOTOGRAPH?

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Summary/Abstract: 2018 sees the 20th anniversary of the signing of a Peace Agreement that brought with it a promise of 'lasting peace' in Northern Ireland. However, the past has continued to haunt large sections of the population whose lives have been scarred by the violence they experienced. The article examines how contemporary photographers have attempted to come to terms with the effects of political violence over the years. It does so in relation to how they approach the question of 'showing' that violence. Some, like Paul Seawright or David Farrell, for example, prefer an allusive, lateral approach that focuses on the sometimes invisible traces of violence. In contrast, the Belfast-based photographer, Malcolm Craig Gilbert takes a more frontal approach that insists on presenting the viewer with images of trauma, sometimes at