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Mark Neville's photograph *Parade #7* was taken in 2019.

It measures 127cm in width by 102cm in height. Which is around the size of a single duvet folded in half ... so that the top meets the bottom.

It's a colour photograph ... framed with a dark walnut coloured frame. A thin white border runs all around the edge ... between the photograph and the frame.

Landscape in format, the majority of the background of this photograph is made up of a body of water. The water looks like a small man-made lake ... maybe created for fishing. It definitely doesn't look like a flowing river, as the water ripples from the top of the photograph to the bottom of the photograph ... and back again ... in horizontal strips.

The top and bottom lines of the photograph are similar width strips of green.

At the top of the composition ... underneath the bottom of dark evergreen trees ... green grass grows and creates a bank along the water. The trees are tall. Although the tops of them are not visible to the viewer... their full bodies are reflected in the horizontal ripple stripes on the water. Bringing dark green colouring to the otherwise grey water.

At the bottom of the lake ... at the front of the image... the bank is lined with patchy, scuffed green grass and mud. It is well trodden.

A young pre-teen girl stands at the very front of the composition... on our right side of the photograph as we face the image. The girl faces the photographer. Her feet are out of shot. Her bare, slightly tanned white legs are visible, with her left knee bent slightly. She wears a short red A-line skirt, with a loose floral top tucked into the waist band of the skirt. Small red, pink and green flowers are scattered across the thin white and pale blue stripes of the top. The neckline is round, and made of another piece of material that falls over the body of the top. A frill ... hangs over her shoulders with a thin white hem.

She has straight long natural light blonde hair... messily parted on the left side of her head. Her hair is cut straight, and hangs around her shoulders, finishing just an inch below the frill of her top.

Her blue eyes look directly at us. Her expression is difficult to decipher. Is she bored? Mildly concerned? Her lips are closed, and almost seem to snarl. Her head tilts ever so slightly to her left.

Her arms hang down by her sides ... bare except for a pale pink watch strap on her left wrist. The watch face is not visible.. only the white plastic buckle fastening.

In each of her hands she holds a cheerleading pom pom... made up of thick strips of bright pink foil. I can just imagine the light metallic sound as they bluster in the wind. Reflecting the natural light from the sky... the foils show a whole palette of pink. Pale candy floss pink in the areas hit with most light... fading through to a dark beetroot pink. Each colour in the photograph is so vivid... especially the pom-poms.

Behind the girl ... I count around 27 dogs ... Foxhounds or Harriers. They are tall, thin dogs, with short fur ... maybe hunting dogs. They are all caramel in colour... some with dark brown patches, and some with white patches. Their thin faces are flanked by big droopy ears. The majority of the dogs.. face in the direction of the photographer.. looking towards us, the audience. On the left side of the girl there are 14 dogs. On her right side, I count the heads of 13 dogs.

I'm not sure if this will make sense.. but the way the dogs stand behind the girl reminds me of when dancers stand in a line ... one behind each other. Each dancer takes their turn to peek around the side of the front dancer. For the viewer watching the dance, it creates the illusion of the front dancer having multiple body parts. Due to perspective, the body of the front dancer hides the rest of the dancers, until they peek around them. It seems like these dogs have been participating in this sort of dance... but now they have all fallen out of position and instead fringe around the girl... (the front dancer...)

The pack of dogs seem to float on the water behind the girl. To the right of her right knee there is a very small piece of wooden structure visible, which immediately corrects my perception of the dogs floating on the water. They aren't floating, they are standing on a pier over the water... only this tiny piece of pier is visible.. the rest is hidden by the sheer number of dogs standing on it.

The dogs closest to us, the viewer... stand around the girl's feet. Owing to perspective... the dogs right at the back of the pier ... look to come right up to the top of the girls head.

I read that this photograph took three sessions to achieve in order for the pack of dogs, and the girl to be looking in the photographer's direction. It seems to me as if the waning interest ... owing to this prolonged procedure has begun to tell on the girl's face - the slight slump of her head, her piercing stare ... combined with her expression of mild indifference ... and mouth that teeters on a snarl.