

## PRESS RELEASE

### Seen But Not Heard

10 June – 19 November 2017

A display of 31 images of children just as they leave primary school, and before they move onto secondary school, by photographer Rachel Molina opens at the V&A Museum of Childhood on 10 June 2017.

The transition from primary to secondary education is a first step towards adulthood, filled with hopes and anxieties, worries and aspiration. A time of transition, exciting and frightening in equal measure. A time when children start to make their own decisions, find their own way, contemplate the consequences of their actions. A time to make new friends, learn new things, not just academically, but about themselves about their own minds and bodies. Molina's work, a collection of intimate photographic portraits and testimonies neither sentimental nor judgemental, gives a unique voice to these children who are often *Seen But Not Heard*.

*You have to get to know new people instead of just staying with your friends. I'm worried that new people might not like me as a person. I will have to talk to some of them in my class and get to know them, although some of them might treat me differently. I would like to be a singer and dancer when I'm older. I would also like to learn a new language. I'm a bit nervous and I think I will be a bit confused because on my first day my mum will have to leave me there and I will have to get to know the school and all the teachers. We have to read a book in a week and then we have to have to do a quiz on that book. I don't read that fast so that might be a bit of a challenge.*

Miah H



The project was photographed in the summer term of 2015 as all the 31 children, from various schools around London, were embarking on the big step to secondary school. The inspiration for the project came from Molina's son who himself was changing schools. As she worked on the project it occurred to her quite how

daunting and often scary the experience can be. *'I believe it's the biggest educational change most kids, in this country, have in their life and I was keen to explore how this universal experience affects them.'* Rachel Molina

Rachel Molina is based in London. She has twice been selected for the Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize at the National Portrait Gallery (2015 and 2016), in 2015 it was with the portraits from the project. Molina studied photography at Tower Hamlets College and then at London College of Printing from 1998 to 2000, she has only been working as a photographer for the last four years.

## **Ends**

Press images can be downloaded, after registering, at <http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk>

## **Notes to editors**

### **V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA**

Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30. Admission FREE.

Switchboard: 020 8983 5200 [www.vam.ac.uk/moc](http://www.vam.ac.uk/moc)

The V&A Museum of Childhood is the UK's National Museum of Childhood. It is the largest institution of its kind in the world. Its mission is to hold in trust the nation's childhood collections and to be an international leader in engaging audiences in the material culture and experiences of childhood.