

## Café Royal Books 23 February – 02 June 2024

*'I want them to be affordable, democratic, useful and functional. I'm not into publishing decorative things or something so expensive that most people can't afford them. Someone once said they're often less than the price of a London pint, so I use that as a measure.'* - **Craig Atkinson**

**This Spring, The Photographers' Gallery celebrates the work of Café Royal Books with a new display, from 23 February - 2 June 2024.**

Founded by Craig Atkinson in Southport in 2005, Café Royal Books has been producing affordable weekly publications since 2012. Now spanning more than 600 issues, it is an extraordinary printed archive of documentary photography, often featuring previously unseen or overlooked work. Driven by a mission to make the publications affordable, accessible and free from fuss and decoration, Café Royal Books is an valuable record of cultural and social change in Britain and Ireland.

Visitors can browse a selection of around 250 titles from the first 600 issues of Café Royal Books' back catalogue, featuring everyday scenes from cities across the UK, including Hull, Liverpool, London, Glasgow and Manchester. Documenting festivals, gigs and raves, political protests and riots, to street markets, football matches, docks and mines, Atkinson describes the ethos of Café Royal Books as 'somewhere between craft and punk'.

Published photographers include Daniel Meadows, Shirley Baker, Martin Parr, Chris Killip, Janine Wiedel and Jo Spence, as well as many less well-known photographers. Many of the Café Royal Books artists have exhibited at The Photographers' Gallery previously.

A selection of Café Royal Books will be available from the gallery Bookshop.

### **Press Contacts**

For further press information and image requests please contact:

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For general information and enquiries about The Photographers' Gallery, including the archive, Print Sales Gallery or Bookshop contact: [press@tpg.org.uk](mailto:press@tpg.org.uk)

### **Notes for Editors**

#### **Café Royal Books**

Café Royal Books is a family-run, independent publisher, founded by Craig Atkinson in Southport in 2005. Café Royal Books publications are widely collected and used for information and research into social history, cultural change, fashion, film, music and much more. The publications are held in many university and gallery collections including MoMA, New York, TATE and V&A, London. The exhibition, *Café Royal Books: Documentary, Zines and Subversion*, was held at the Martin Parr Foundation, Bristol in 2022.

#### **The Photographers' Gallery**

The Photographers' Gallery explores how photography is connecting, captivating and radically changing our world today. The Gallery's programme and spaces – from exhibitions, events and digital platforms, to the galleries, shop and café – all explore the beauty, complexity and future of photography. Right outside the Gallery, the very best of contemporary photography is shown for free, day and night, in Soho Photography Quarter.

The Photographers' Gallery  
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The Photographers' Gallery is a registered charity no. 262548.  
The Photographers' Gallery Limited is registered in London no. 986208.  
VAT registration no. GB645332251.

Find out more at: [thephotographersgallery.co.uk](http://thephotographersgallery.co.uk)

**Visitor information – The Photographers' Gallery**

**Mon – Weds 10am – 6pm**

**Thurs & Fri 10am – 8pm (Friday free from 5pm)**

**Sat 10am – 6pm**

**Sun 11am- 6pm**

**Tickets** - *your ticket covers entry to all exhibitions on the day of your visit*

£8 / £5 concessions (members go free)

Advance online booking: £6.50 / £4 concessions

Also on show at The Photographers' Gallery, 23 February - 2 June 2024

[Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2024](#) &

In Soho Photography Quarter: [Sian Davey - The Garden](#), until November 2024, free

In the Print Sales Gallery: [Raúl Cañibano: Human Landscapes](#), until 7 April 2024, free

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Social media

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