

LIGHT YEARS: THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY AT 50 **25 JUN 2021 – 1 FEB 2022**

A new series of displays celebrates The Photographers' Gallery's 50th anniversary with a journey through the rich history of the gallery from the 1970s to the present day.

'Light Years: The Photographers' Gallery at 50' is a special four-part exhibition series which presents rarely seen materials from the Gallery's archive to explore key moments and movements in both Gallery's history and the wider photographic landscape. Arranged around four thematic displays each 'chapter' draws on hidden treasures from the archive, surveying five decades of the Gallery's exhibition programme and reflecting on its influential legacy.

Taking over the Eranda Studio on the third floor of the gallery, the first display: '**Photojournalism: a worthy art for a new gallery**' (25 June–8 August 2021) considers why 'eyewitness' photography was so central to the gallery's programme over its first decade, from its inaugural 1971 exhibition, 'The Concerned Photographer', which featured legends of photojournalism such as Andre Kertesz and the Magnum photographer Robert Capa, to collaborations with key figures on Fleet Street.

This is followed by '**Fashion and Advertising: Anti-elitist art photography**' (13 August–26 October 2021), which examines the territory of 'commercial photography', from advertising to the experimental role of magazine culture. This includes exhibitions such as 'Five Years with The Face' (1985), which featured photographers Anton Corbijn, Jill Furmanski, Sheila Rock and Robert Mapplethorpe and reaffirmed the key role magazines, graphic design and the printed page played in the evolution of fashion and advertising photography.

The next display '**Beyond documentary: from photography to photographies**' (October–December 2021) explores the new artistic developments that have continuously tested the boundaries of the photographic medium, beginning with the exhibition 'New Work in Britain: Aspects of Photography in Britain Today' (1981), which featured photographers Martin Parr, David Chadwick and Tish Murtha and whose preferred output was the portfolio or book; through to mixed media work and the 'postmodern' photographers who acknowledged the many complex ways in which photography was implicated with power, politics and capital including the work of artists such as Maud Sulter, Zarina

The Photographers' Gallery
16–18 Ramillies Street
London W1F 7LW

+44(0)20 7087 9300
info@tpg.org.uk
tpg.org.uk

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

Bhimji, Mona Hatoum and Sutupa Biswas in 'Intimate Distance: Five Female Artists' (1989).

Finally, the last display '**The Archive: Collectors, critics and subversives**' (December 2021–February 2022) examines the links between technological and aesthetic innovation as well as vernacular and non-art image making, from scientific images to polaroids and cameraless photography, whilst also charting photography's digital revolution and the enormous impact the growth of digital imagery has had on our everyday lives through the internet, datasets and machine learning.

Light Years is curated by writer, curator, researcher, academic researcher and broadcaster David Brittain. He was the editor of 'Creative Camera' magazine and has written several books on photography. His association with the Photographers' Gallery began in 1978.

Light Years opens alongside the *Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2021* and *The Picture Library*, an exhibition of more than 200 images drawn from the Guardian picture library.

-ENDS-

Press Contacts

For further press information and image requests please contact:

Grace Gabriele-Tighe or Harriet Black at Margaret PR on +44 (0) 20 7739 8203 or email grace@margaretlondon.com or harriet@margaretlondon.com

Notes for Editors

The Photographers' Gallery: 50 Years

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of The Photographers' Gallery. Founded in 1971 by Sue Davies, OBE, as the UK's first public gallery dedicated to the photographic medium, TPG has over the last five decades played a pivotal role in championing photography's position as a leading artistic and cultural form as well as providing an invaluable centre for the exhibition and support of photographers and photography from across the globe.

Over the course of 2021, the Gallery is staging a special series of exhibitions and events to mark this significant anniversary; reflecting on its legacy and impact over the last five decades and looking towards the future of photography in a rapidly changing world.

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastiano Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009, the Gallery moved to 16 – 18 Ramillies Street in Soho, the first stage in its plan to create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen months long redevelopment project, the Gallery reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture. www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

David Brittain

Since 1980 David Brittain has been engaged with photography as a writer, reviewer, editor of 'Creative Camera', documentary maker, curator and academic researcher. David wrote 'Inside Photography: Ten Interviews with Editors' (2012), 'The Jet Age Compendium: Paolozzi At Ambit' (2009), edited 'Creative Camera: 30 Years of Writing' (2000) and has contributed many essays to journals and books including 'The Journal of Magazine Media' (2020) and 'A Companion To Photography' (2020). His association with the Photographers' Gallery began in 1978.

Visitor Information

(As of 15 June, please check website for latest opening information)

Mon – Closed

Tues – Sat 10.00 - 18.00

Thu 10.00 - 20.00

Sun 11.00 - 18.00

Social media

Instagram: @thephotographersgallery

Twitter: @TPGallery

Facebook: @ThePhotographersGalleryLDN

**THE
PHOTOGRAPHERS'
GALLERY**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**