

Lisa Barnard: The Canary and The Hammer Soho Photography Quarter May 2025 - 31 May 2026

"Gold is often perceived as a safe investment, particularly in times of political turmoil and uncertainty in the economy" - Lisa Barnard

The Canary and The Hammer by Lisa Barnard is now open in Soho Photography Quarter, just outside The Photographers' Gallery, until May 2026.

The free outdoor exhibition on the Gallery's doorstep is a powerful photographic exploration by Lisa Barnard. Shown at large scale, Barnard's work examines our enduring obsession with gold - its beauty, value and the darker truths behind its global impact.

Photographed over four years across four continents, *The Canary and The Hammer* was sparked by the 2008 financial crisis. Barnard traces gold's complex role in modern life, from ecological destruction and human exploitation in mining, to its invisible but essential presence in medicine and technology.

Canaries have long been recognised for their crucial role in mines, serving as an early warning system for carbon monoxide and ensuring miners' safety. Likewise, gold is a reliable barometer of economic stability; its price consistently reflects the fluctuations of the market. Just as a canary signals impending danger, gold is a powerful indicator of upcoming crises.

Through striking imagery and intertwined stories, Barnard prompts us to consider what gold really costs, and what it continues to represent in a world shaped by power, progress and inequality.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

For further information on *The Canary and The Hammer*, alongside any images and credits/captions, 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.

Lisa Barnard

Lisa Barnard (b.1967, UK) is an artist, researcher and teacher whose photographic practice addresses real events using traditional methods, alongside more contemporary visual and computer forms. Her work explores the current

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political climate and the military-industrial complex, with technological innovation, perception and new ecologies. Barnard combines her interest in aesthetics with multi-layered visual presentations.

Barnard's work has been exhibited widely in museums and at photography festivals. She is an Associate Professor and Head of the Master's Programme in Documentary Photography at the University of South Wales. She has published three books: *Hyena of the Battlefield* and *Machines in the Garden* (both published by GOST Books), and *The Canary and The Hammer* (published by MACK, 2019). Barnard won the After Nature Prize 2025 and will show the winning project at C/O Berlin in autumn 2025.

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, talks, workshops and digital platforms, to the galleries, shop and cafe – 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.

Find out more at: thephotographersgallery.org.uk.

Visitor information for Soho Photography Quarter

***Lisa Barnard: The Canary and The Hammer* is now on show outdoors in Soho Photography Quarter for free, 24 hours a day, until May 2026.**

Visitor information – The Photographers' Gallery

Monday – Wednesday 10am – 6pm

Thursday & Friday 10am – 8pm

Saturday 10am – 6pm

Sunday & bank holidays 11am – 6pm

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

£10 / £7 concessions (members go free)

[Save with advance online booking: £8.50 / £6 concessions](#)

Currently on show at The Photographers' Gallery until Sunday 15 June 2025:

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2025

Peter Mitchell: Nothing Lasts Forever

At the Print Sales Gallery, *Alma Haser: Everything has an End, Only a Sausage has Two* is on show until 22 June 2025, free

Opening on 27 June 2025:

Dennis Morris: Music + Life

[Felicity Hammond: V3: Model Collapse](#)

[Coming up at The Photographers' Gallery in 2025](#)

The Photographers' Gallery

16-18 Ramillies Street, London, W1F 7LW

Nearest London Underground station: Oxford Circus

T: + 44 (0)20 7087 9300 E: info@tpg.org.uk W: thephotographersgallery.org.uk

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