



“If you know how to do what I do you can make anyone forget why they’re there, and when you reach that moment all kinds of secrets reveal themselves.” – Chris Floyd

Photo North Festival : 24-26 March '23

Photographer Chris Floyd rose to fame during the heights of Britpop and has since become one of the most in-demand celebrity portrait photographers in the world. Chris will be at this year's Photo North Festival exhibiting a selection of portraits from his book *Not Just Pictures*, a visual memoir dedicated to his 30-year career.

Chris will also be imparting selected career highlights and insightful recollections, first-hand accounts of, in his words, 'unique encounters on the confrontation and collaboration line'.

Now in its fourth year, the curators of Photo North, Peter Dench and Sharon Price have secured participation from iconic names including Chris Floyd, Richard Ansett, Joanne Coates, Roy Mehta and Tessa Bunney

Brought together in a single venue at iconic The Faversham, Leeds, amongst a backdrop of book & zine stalls, talks and screenings, licensed bar and networking, Photo North will play host to exhibitions all championing photography and will be open to the public for a three-day festival.

Photo North are proud to collaborate with Richard Ansett, first prize Sony World Photography Award winner for *A Portrait of Grayson Perry - BIRTH*. Richard will be exhibiting a selection from his reportage *FAT*. The subjects are more than participants in a photojournalistic study; they are allegories, 'the discarded by-products of a progressive society,' says Ansett. The images are the documentation of a group of contributors days before they were due for surgery, a unique moment in time when they were detached from the shame and humiliation of their obesity and were looking forward to a new life promised by surgery. These are, in editorial terms, the 'before' images intended originally to be compared to the 'after' but with the after removed.

Joanne Coates will exhibit her remarkable *Daughters of the Soil: Women make up 28% of the farming industry in the UK and their contribution is significant but often overlooked, with underlying barriers such as access to land, class, motherhood, and lack of clear leadership roles contributing to this. Despite playing a central role in agricultural progress throughout history, documentation of female farmworkers is slim. Daughters of the Soil aims to redress this and create a powerful portrait of the role women play in contemporary farming practices.*

Other exhibitions include: *Going to the Sands*, stunning photographs by Tessa Bunney of Morecambe Bay fishing families and *BELONG* by Dean Belcher, intimate photographs inside Working Men's Clubs. Taken between 1989–1993, Roy Mehta's exquisite black and white photographs from his reportage, *REVIVAL*, capture the daily rituals of London borough of Brent's various communities, most notably the Afro-Caribbean and Irish, engaged in seemingly simple activities at home, in the street and at church. *Return, O Backsliding Children* by Sofia Conti is a multimedia based collaboration with communities in the East End of Glasgow, documenting how crime encroaches upon their daily lives and *Postcards From the Edge*, is a group show celebrating the colour and character of the English seaside with contributions from Barry Lewis, Peter Dench, Heather Tait, Gisela & Craig Szlatoszlavek, Hannah Cassidy and Dawn Mander.

Festival co-founder & curator, Peter Dench, says: 'We recognise people are passionate about photography. Photo North Festival aims to introduce or advance understanding of the medium through our programme of exhibitions - to inspire and engage debate. We have one perfect venue, with headline events and renowned photographers confirmed and the list is growing. The creativity in planning the festival format, talks and screenings is something unique to offer people in the north of England and beyond.'

Sharon Price, co-founder & curator, says: 'We've chosen thought-provoking works that provide relevant social commentary on some quite hard-hitting issues. We also have the beautiful and the poignant, that will appeal not only to enthusiasts seeking to be challenged, but also to those seeking a feast for the senses.'

Sharon and Peter have secured the sensational line up to deliver a thought-provoking, lively and inclusive festival that will appeal to the professional photographer, photo-enthusiast, keen amateur and anyone who wishes to engage with the timeless appeal of the medium.

Once again, Photo North Festival promises to be one of the most exciting and engaging photo events in the UK.

www.photonorthfestival.co.uk

Ends _____

A selection of images can be found on our Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NzLJE0N3-1ydMAjwYepgoPJ3GtY-vxhh>

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Chris Floyd – Not Just Pictures



Richard Ansett - Fat



Joanne Coates – Daughters of the Soil