FLOW PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY

in association with

AMBERSIDE

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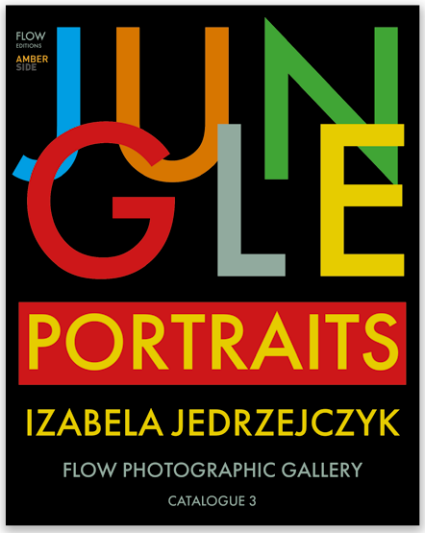


LIMITED EDITION, SIGNED £20

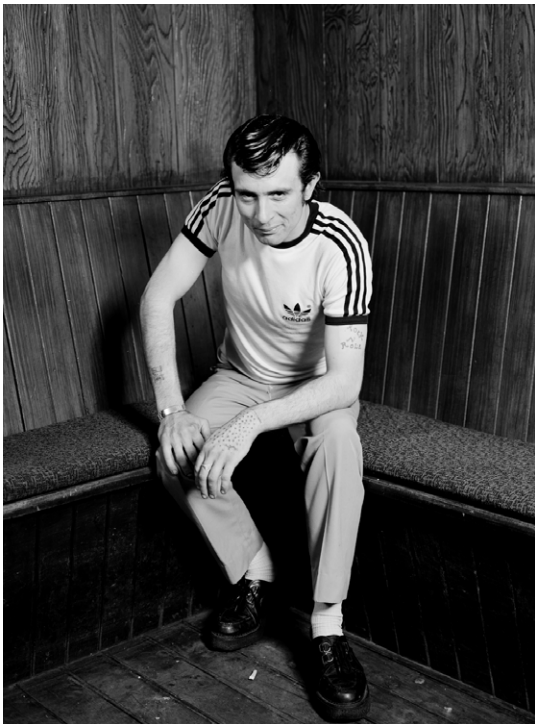
PRESS RELEASE 16/8/21

JUNGLE PORTRAITS
by Izabela Jedrzejczyk

25 vintage silver gelatin prints made by the photographer in 1980 shown for the first time in London.

Private View 30th September 2021
Exhibition runs until February 2022

NEWCASTLE 1980



IZABELA JEDRZEJCZYK & AMBER COLLECTIVE

'The Jungle' was the name given to a pub in the North Shields area of Tyneside where locals and visiting ships' crews would drink. The pub was also frequented by photographer members of the legendary Amber Collective. Over 15 sessions Izabela Jedrzejczyk (pronounced 'yen-jay-chik'), then 27 years old and, herself, a member of the collective, photographed fellow visitors to this notorious hostelry.

SOCIETY

The portraits are evidence of a thriving community that mixed easily deriving from Newcastle's tradition of being a welcoming port to refugees and émigrés over centuries. This vibrant society was enhanced by ships' crews visiting from distant lands who were drawn to the smoke, lights and ambience of 'The Jungle' pub.

THE GREAT CHANGE

Jedrzejczyk made these portraits as the lives of people in the North East were about to undergo upheaval due to the then government's policy of de-industrialisation of the North East. This exhibition of vintage silver gelatin prints reaffirms the dignity and self possession of a people whose lives would never be the same again.

FASHION

Beyond their value as a social document, the Jungle Portraits are an important historical resource for research into fashion, textiles and hairstyles of the era. Indeed the shoes worn by 'The Ted' (image above) have been identified as being original 'George Cox's'.

FLOW PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY

FPG, founded in 2019, is the first and only gallery in London to specialise in showcasing British documentary photography. The gallery is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting contemporary and historically important bodies of work by leading photographers examining life in the UK.

FLOW PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY & THE AMBER ARCHIVE

This is the first collaboration between Flow Photographic Gallery and The Amber Collective. The Amber Archive have lent FPG the original prints that Jedrzejczyk made for exhibition in the early 80's. FPG is very grateful to Amber Archive for their help in making this exhibition possible.

A limited edition set of handmade silver gelatin prints and a catalogue will be available from the gallery and website.

For more information please contact
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Izabela Jedrzejczyk

Born in London, Jedrzejczyk studied at Nottingham Trent under Thomas Joshua Cooper, Paul Hill and Raymond Moore before arriving in Newcastle in1977 to start work at Side Gallery as an assistant. She joined Amber Collective along with photographers such as Chris Killip and Graham Smith and contributed to the collective's growing archive of life and work in the North East of England. Jedrzejczyk was mainly known for her landscape work before1980 when she embarked on the Jungle Portraits. She now lives in a small village near Carlisle, Cumbria.

THE JUNGLE PORTRAITS
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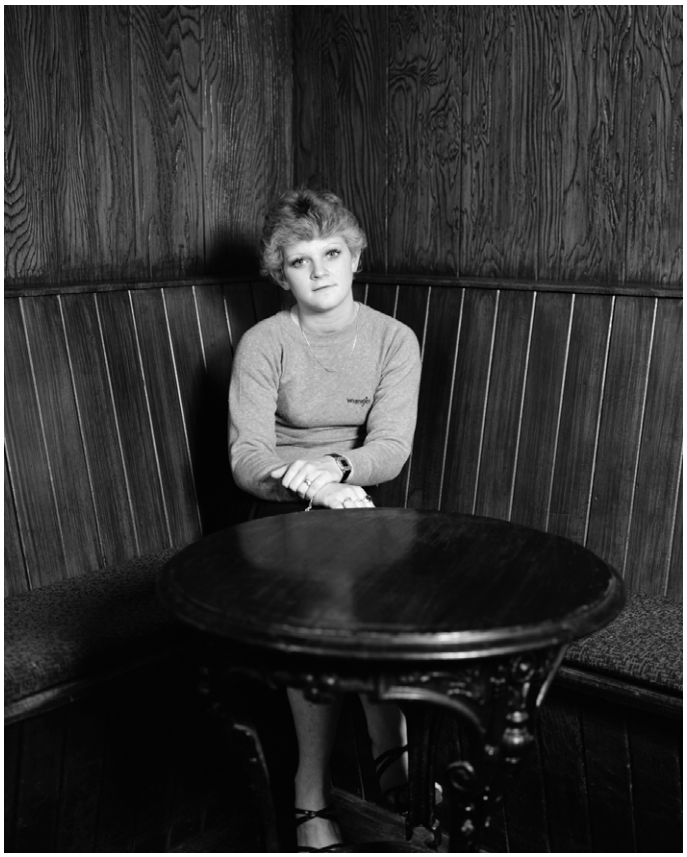

THE JUNGLE PORTRAITS
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