

## Celebrating Women in Photography Today

# #RETIREDPERFORMERS

## Claire Walmsley Griffiths

The psychology of a place is made by the people, if you forget the story - what happens to the place?

In 2014 I met a retired foot juggler at Showzam, Blackpool's circus festival. She showed me an image of herself as a young woman with her husband. She told me that her husband had performed for Hitler and toured the world performing. I began to consider the "hidden" stories of Blackpool, a place famous for performance and historically the destination for theatre and showmanship.

Time and Tide, The Retired Performers Project, is a series of images and audio interviews captured over 12 months beginning in January 2018 supported by Arts Council England, The Winter Gardens Blackpool and Leftcoast Creative People and Places. The series attempts to document professional performers who worked in Blackpool in and prior to the 70's photographed today sometimes back in their place of performance and sometimes at home the images are accompanied by audio conversations. <https://www.retiredperformers.com/about>

The series became a shared experience between the photographer and participant.

*I am a commissioned photographer graduating with a Fine Art Degree from Northampton University historically using dark room technique, analogue film and moving image. Based in Blackpool Lancashire, I explore the possibilities of human connection through photography; I am interested in how the human condition attaches itself to labels good and bad.*

*A northern photographer my practice aims to make inquiry around alternative photographic exhibition and installation/ audio, stemming from biographical ideas involving notions of audience as subject, investigating social labels, shared experience, human connection and how we measure self-worth*

*Using a camera as a tool for conversation I am interested in the identity of an experience or place, what community is was or might become. I am currently researching a project around the illegal warehouse parties of East Lancashire prior to The Criminal Justice Bill enforcement.*

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### MORE INFO

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