

Celebrating Women in Photography Today

TOO MANY MAN: WOMEN OF GRIME

Ellie Ramsden

Grime began as a makeshift music style, blending the eclectic sounds of London's Afro-Caribbean community. Borne out mixture of various music genres, from reggae, dancehall, bashment, ragga and dub, to garage and drum and bass, grime has made its way from humble beginnings to a global phenomenon over the past two decades.

Today, grime is everywhere. The music genre has surpassed its pirate radio days and has now found its way into charts across the world, attracting critical acclaim for its stark social commentary on living in inner-city London, opening listeners' eyes to the harsh realities of street life from deprivation, violence and gang warfare, to the intimacies of relationships, friends and family life. Grime has given young, working-class Londoners a genre to identify with.

Despite grime's colossal reach, women still remain a minority in the male-oriented genre, and often feel underrepresented. When grime is mentioned, names such as Skepta and Stormzy come to mind. Some may have heard Lady Leshurr, but few know of other females in the scene. Females who aren't artists, but still contribute to the grime scene in another medium, such as musicians, producers, journalists, managers and videographers find it difficult to gain recognition for their work. Too Many Man: Women of Grime seeks to ask why, and gives the women of grime a platform to share their thoughts and experiences of the scene.

Ellie Ramsden is a 24-year-old portrait photographer from South East London. She graduated with a 2:1 in Editorial and Advertising Photography from the University of Gloucestershire in 2018. Ramsden's love for underground music and street culture are clear throughout her work, with brutalist architecture, graffiti and housing estates often the backdrop of her portraits. Ramsden's interests lay in telling real stories, and questioning existing ideas and stereotypes of gender, race and class.

MORE INFO

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