

Celebrating Women in Photography Today

SELFIE BY THE SEA

Jill Reidy

Rebellion Festival is an annual event in this crazy town called Blackpool. Each year I go along to shoot, and inevitably get chatting with the punks. Like any group of enthusiasts who meet for a common purpose, they are recognisable by their self-styled uniform: tattoos, piercings, dramatic make-up and hairstyles, and clothes held together with pins and chains. The image is brash and hard, but that's not the person who goes into work the next day with the starch washed out of his hair, pins and chains removed, Doc Martens replaced by smart shoes. Several of the punks I spoke to held jobs as lawyers, teachers, nurses. I wondered which was the real person – the punk or the worker? It didn't take any of them long to assure me that they identified far more with their punk persona. That was real life. Work was simply a way of paying for it.

Originally from London, I made Blackpool my home 42 years ago. As a self taught photographer, street is my passion, and has been the theme of several exhibitions. This town is my inspiration. I love the quirky side of Blackpool - that's what excites me and provides me with the images - and the stories - I most like to capture. My style has been hugely influenced by the local area, its inhabitants and visitors. Like most seaside towns, it is a place of contrasts. Two years ago I set off on a road trip around the seaside towns of Britain, comparing them with Blackpool, chatting to the inhabitants and recording their views. This culminated in a blog, the publication of a book and my biggest and most successful exhibition to date, 'Seaside Towns Out of Season'. Long may Blackpool continue to be the magic town it's always been to this Londoner.

Whipper Snappers Workshops <https://www.facebook.com/WhipperSnappersBlackpoolUK2015/>
<https://www.whippersnappersandbetterstart2017.com/what-are-whipper-snapper-workshops>

MORE INFO

Facebook: www.facebook.com/redsnapperphotography.co.uk
Twitter: twitter.com/jillreidy
Instagram: [instagram.com/jillmreidy](https://www.instagram.com/jillmreidy)
Email: jill.reidy@btinternet.com