

# WE LIVE BY THA' WATER

**Joanne Coates**

This series is a personal journey through mental health diagnosis. Navigating a world unknown, and yet familiar. Photography often focuses its eye on the representation of others, here the photographer focuses on her own identity and view of the world through difficult times. Representation of mental health comes in many forms, often removed, often personal. Using the camera as a way of understanding a complex condition, a disappearance and how this never ending journey becomes clearer to the photographer themselves. It is a comment on how confusing and misunderstood mental health is both for those suffering and the witnesses.

*Joanne Coates is a working class documentary storyteller who uses the medium of photography. Based in the North of England. She is interested in working life and class inequality. Her work's key themes are Northern culture in rural places and working class life. Her approach to photography is democratic and poetic.*

## MORE INFO

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